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BIRTH.

At No. 12, Minghong Road, on the 27th December, 1896, the wife of S. A. DE SOUZA, of a son.

DEATHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on Monday morning, the 4th inst., WILLIAM DORAN, Sugar Boiler, aged 25 years; a native of Greenock, Scotland. [101]

At Swatow, on the 25th December, at his residence, LOUIS GRUNAUER, aged about 39 years. [2990]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 1st December arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 1st January (31 days); and the French mail of the 4th December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 3rd January (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

In the New Year's honours a knighthood has been conferred on Dr. J. W. Carrington, Chief Justice of Hongkong.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert proposes visiting Burma this cold weather to try and find material for a comic opera.

Rinderpest has broken out at Shanghai. The disease has also made its appearance in Japan and Siam.

It is reported at Saigon that the *Saghalien*, which is to proceed to Marseilles in ballast for repair, is not likely to be put on the mail line again, but will be relegated to a local service, probably the Mediterranean line.

According to the French papers, Dr. Yersin will probably return to China before long, as the Chinese Government is anxious for the creation of a Pasteur Institute at Canton, with the young French doctor at its head.

The C. N. steamer *Kansu*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 28th December from Hongkong, fell in with a dismasted junk in a sinking condition off Tongmi Point, and with great difficulty rescued the crew, six in number, and landed them at Namoa Island.

According to a telegram in the Saigon papers M. Doumer, the new Governor-General of Indo-China, leaves for his new post on the 20th January, accompanied by his family. He has resigned his post as a Deputy and will devote himself entirely to the interests of Indo-China.

The Spanish troops in the Philippines have defeated the rebels in several engagements, but notwithstanding these defeats the rebellion appears to be spreading.

The annual meeting of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, was held on the 31st December, when the report and accounts were adopted. The Chairman gave an interesting statement as to the operations at the mines, and satisfaction was expressed that the Company had at last reached a dividend paying basis.

The annual meeting of the Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 30th December, but as the accounts were not ready the meeting was postponed until the 15th March. It was stated that a profit of \$70,000 had been anticipated, but this had been more than swept away by the trouble in the working of the factory.

A Cantonese rice-exporting hong at Wuhu having failed for Tls. 8,000 the other day, the Canton guild and several of the largest firms in the same line of business in that port, apprehensive that this would spoil the good name and credit of Cantonese generally, at once came to the rescue and paid up next day the whole of the bankrupt firm's liabilities.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 24th December says:—There have been several deaths from exposure amongst the beggars at the gates of the native city during the cold snap, and one yesterday at Sinza. The custom amongst the beggars of Shanghai in cold weather is to eat a certain quantity of *Hung Fei* or red arsenic, once or twice a day, in proportion to the severity of the weather, as this arsenic is said to give either artificial heat to the body or render it less liable to the effects of cold.

The central executive committee at Lisbon notify that the postponement of the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the maritime route to India, by Vasco da Gama, from July, 1897, the anniversary of his sailing from Lisbon, until May, 1898, the anniversary of his arrival at Calicut, having been rendered necessary, in consequence of the shortness of time and for other reasons, it has been decided to await further decisions of Parliament, which meets early in January.

The vernacular papers announce the failure of Messrs. C. P. Low & Co., No. 265, Yokohama. After consultation with the creditors, Mr. Otani Konosuke and others have agreed to organize a company with a capital of 100,000 yen and carry on the business of tea and silk piece goods exporters. Application has been made to the Agricultural and Commercial Department for a charter. The *Jiji* states that the Company intend to engage Mr. Low's services.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The Hongkong branch of the Navy League is inviting the British residents to sign a declaration to the effect that, having regard to the recent Admiralty Return of Comparative Naval Strength, they view with apprehension the alleged intention of the Admiralty to omit provision for the construction of new battleships from the forthcoming Navy estimates, and therefore urge on Her Majesty's Government the necessity of taking such steps as will restore the predominance of the British fleet as regards battleships and officers and men.

It is reported in native commercial circles at Wuhu that a Japanese syndicate has ordered to be built in Germany three river steamers of the China Merchants' steamer *Kiangwan* type to run between Shanghai and Yangtze river ports. The agency of the new steamers, it is further reported, will be given to an English firm, and the new vessels will begin to run by April or May next.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following communication from the French Consul has been communicated by the Colonial Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce:—Consulat de France, Hongkong, 23rd December, 1896. Monsieur le Secrétaire Colonial.—In continuation of my letter of the 9th September last I have the honour to inform you that Monsieur le Gouverneur Général of Indo-China has made an order dated 14th November admitting to free pratique in the ports of our colony arrivals from Hongkong. Veuillez agréer, etc., LEON DE LE ROUX.

At the meeting of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, held at Brisbane on the 4th December, it was decided to leave the question of the increase of plant in the hands of the directors and no binding resolution was passed. The Chairman said the Brisbane Board willingly conceded the forty-head battery recommended by the Singapore Board, but still hesitated as to electricity, owing to the unknown risks attending it. The Singapore Board, he said, was somewhat inclined to press electricity, but he had every reason to believe the difference of opinion would soon be adjusted; it was simply a matter of compromise.

H.E. Sheng Hsuan-huai, Director-General of the Great Western Railway, went to Woosung on Christmas Day, accompanied by a staff of experts, to examine the ground between there and Shanghai, on account of which a report is now circulating that the first railway to be undertaken will be between these two points. H.E. will subsequently embark in a large-sized steam-launch for a tour between Woosung and Soochow. *Après* of the above-named official, his suggestion to the Throne for his new Imperial Bank to be permitted to coin one-tael pieces to a total of one million has been sanctioned by the Emperor at the recommendation of the Board of Revenue. If these coins "take" amongst the people the said Board intend to establish a mint at Peking for the purpose of coining these "tael-dollars."—*N. C. Daily News*.

From the *Times of Ceylon* we learn that, as the P. & O. steamer *Ravenna* in its voyage from China via Singapore and Penang passed Galle on the morning of the 15th December, she signalled that she required a doctor to come on board immediately on her arrival in Colombo. The Master Attendant at Galle accordingly wired to the Master Attendant at Colombo, and the Port Surgeon was communicated with. Several surmises were made as to the necessity for a doctor to be sent on board when the P. & O. boats carry their own doctors. On the *Ravenna's* arrival at Colombo it was discovered that the doctor of the steamer had died of heart disease shortly after leaving Singapore, and that the steward was suffering from smallpox. The steamer was at once placed in quarantine, and next morning the patient was brought ashore and removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The vessel was then disinfected and pratique was granted.

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR.

The year 1896, though it has not been without its misfortunes, and very serious ones, may be looked back upon as having been on the whole one of general prosperity in the Far East. In the earlier part of the year money was plentiful and trade brisk, and the values of all first class securities advanced considerably. Latterly the conditions have been less favourable. The financial drain upon China caused by the recent war with Japan has been felt more acutely than at an earlier period and this, coupled with the high price of food stuffs caused by crop failures, has given rise to some stringency in the local money market and to restricted consumption of various lines of imports. This, however, is a temporary check only, for crop prospects are now favourable, while as to China's financial embarrassments, they are not more than the country can very easily bear, with anything like an intelligent administration of her resources, and fortunately there are signs of the gradual opening up of the country. The year has seen the opening of several new ports to foreign trade, a railway line connecting the capital with Tientsin is approaching completion, and the construction of a line from Peking to Hankow, to be subsequently extended to Canton, has been decided upon. It may be some time yet before the latter scheme materialises, but events are moving in that direction. The opening of the West River was agreed to by China in the early part of the year, but the date for giving effect to the agreement was deferred pending the settlement of other questions, including the settlement of the Yunnan and Burmese frontier and also, we believe, the extension of the boundaries of this colony. Meantime preparations for the opening of Wuchow, the principal port on the river, have been in progress, the building of the Custom-house being almost completed, and there is every reason to believe that early in the year now entered upon steamers will be seen plying upon that fine waterway. An agitation has also been in progress for a revision of the Chinese fiscal system as applied to the taxation of foreign imports. China is in want of money and wishes to increase the Customs tariff. To this foreign merchants offer no objection provided one payment franks the goods throughout the empire and the lekin squeeze is done away with. Whether China will agree to these terms or not remains to be seen, but the abolition of the wasteful lekin system with its all pervading speculation would prove as profitable to the Chinese revenue as to foreign trade. An important event of the year was the visit of LI HUNG-CHANG to Europe and America, and the fruit of his observations ought to make for progress in his own country, though for the present Li is out of favour and unable to exercise the influence he formerly possessed.

Turning to the surrounding countries, we note that Japan has been commercially prosperous during the year and that her politics have run fairly smoothly. In Formosa, however, she has had a somewhat difficult task in the establishment of her authority over her new subjects, and indiscretions on the part of some of her officers led to painful consequences that were regretted, we are sure, by no one more than by the Japanese Government. Affairs in the island are now quiet and the expectations entertained of the development of the resources of Formosa under Japanese Government bid fair to be fulfilled. In Indo-China France has secured concessions on the Yunnan frontier. In her own way she

is trying to promote trade in her possessions, but while the differential tariff remains in force the success attendant upon her efforts is not likely to be large. The Chauvinist journals of Saigon, Haiphong, and Hanoi continue steadily girding at Siam and trying to foment quarrels and difficulties with a view to further territorial annexations on the part of France at the expense of Siam; but there is no reason to suppose the Paris Government contemplates any departure from the agreement arrived at with England respecting the integrity of Siam proper. In Siam itself progress is slower than we would like to see it, but it is fair to observe that efforts are being made to improve the administration of the law and to place the finances on a better basis. In the Philippines, with which Hongkong has important commercial connections, a formidable rebellion broke out at the end of August. A large number of troops have been sent out from Spain to assist in quelling the movement, but at present the prospects of a speedy restoration of peace do not appear promising.

In our purely local politics, perhaps the most important event that calls for notice is the change that has been effected in the constitution of the Executive and Legislative Councils. Two unofficial members have been added to the former body, so that local interests are now directly represented in the Government. This is one of the results of the ratepayers' petition for a larger amount of local control over local affairs, and although the concession has not been made in the form the majority of the European residents desired, it is none the less an important and valuable extension of the principle contended for. In the Legislative Council seats have been given to the Officer Commanding the Troops and to an additional Chinese member. The presence of the General in the Council, especially as the government is in future to devolve upon him in the absence of the Governor, will prove a public advantage, and the presence of another Chinese member on the unofficial side, if it does not do much good, will at least do no serious harm. The Sanitary Board question has been agitated throughout the year, but a few days ago a despatch was received from the Secretary of State postponing the settlement of the constitution of the Board until the arrival of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON's successor. We take this to mean that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is inclined to sanction an unofficial majority on the Board, in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants as emphatically expressed in the poll held in May, but that he deems it desirable to defer his final decision in order to avoid directly overriding the Governor's recommendations. The military contribution question has also been warmly discussed during the year, the point at issue being the taxation of our municipal revenues for Imperial purposes. The decision of the home Government has been announced and is against the colony, but the point will continue to be agitated whenever opportunity offers with a view of securing a reconsideration of the decision. A minor question that gave rise to some discussion in the earlier part of the year was the necessity of constantly guarding against the encroachment of mandarin influence in the colony. The particular incident that brought this old time question once more to the front was the ignoring of the Governor in connection with the opening of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the chief place on the occasion being taken by the Chinese mandarin from Kowloon city. A reference to the higher Chinese

authorities in connection with the matter resulted in the publication of an order to Chinese mandarins in general that they are not to concern themselves with the affairs of this colony.

The year's tale of disasters is unhappily a serious one. Plague prevailed for a large part of the year in Hongkong and in various parts of South China and the consequent quarantine to which vessels from Hongkong were subjected at various ports constituted a serious burden on commerce. There was, however, no such panic and exodus of the Chinese population as that which prevailed in connection with the 1894 outbreak, and the interference with local trade was comparatively small. A serious outbreak of cattle plague occurred at the Dairy Farm Company's premises at Pokfulam and the Company lost almost its entire herd, but fortunately the disease did not spread to the other dairies. A disaster of appalling magnitude was the great tidal wave which swept the north-east coast of Japan in June, causing a loss of about twenty-seven thousand lives. Japan also suffered severely during the summer from typhoons and floods, the latter for a time interrupting railway communication at various points. In Hongkong we had on the 29th July the most severe typhoon that has visited the colony since the memorable typhoon of 1874, but thanks to the timely warning given the damage wrought was comparatively small. Under the heading of maritime disasters two stand out conspicuously for the lamentable loss of life by which they were attended and one of them for the noble heroism displayed. On the 29th July the German gunboat *Ilis* was driven on to a rock off the Shantung Promontory and broke in two. The majority of the crew were on the after part of the vessel and went down with her singing a patriotic song, an incident that will live in history amongst the tales of heroism of the sea. Seventy-seven men and all the officers were lost, the number saved being eleven only. The other maritime casualty notable for the loss of life it entailed is the disastrous collision which occurred near Woosung on the 30th April between the steamers *Onwa* and *Neuchwang*, by which some hundred and fifty lives were lost.

In connection with the changes that have taken place in official and social life we must first note the appointment of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD as British Minister at Peking. His Excellency received a warm welcome at the hands of his nationals, both at Hongkong and Shanghai as he passed through, and the impression he created was a highly favourable one. In Hongkong Dr. CARRINGTON has replaced Sir FIELDING CLARKE as Chief Justice and during the few months he has been in the colony he has commanded the esteem both of the legal fraternity and of the public. The Right Rev. Bishop BURDON, who for so many years ably presided over the diocese of Victoria, has retired from active clerical work, but we understand it is his intention, after spending some time in Europe, to return to Hongkong to continue his literary labours. The popular Rifle Brigade has been removed to Singapore and replaced in Hongkong by the West Yorkshire Regiment, whose stay unfortunately is expected to be as brief as that of its predecessor, though nothing is as yet definitely known on that point. The departure of Dr. CANTLIE early in the year was also an event that caused widespread regret in the community, for Dr. CANTLIE had not only taken an active and useful part in various public movements, but had also endeared himself to a large circle of friends.

A notable event of the year in Hongkong was the unveiling of the Queen's statue, which took place on the 28th May and evoked a warm demonstration of loyalty on the part of the inhabitants. In a few months more we will be called upon to celebrate the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, and to all loyal subjects it must be a source of lively satisfaction to reflect that the celebration of so notable an event is likely to take place under auspices entirely favourable. The difficulties that existed between our American cousins and ourselves and which at one time threatened to lead to an open rupture have now been relegated for settlement by friendly arbitration. On the Turkish question the Powers appear to be approaching an agreement, thereby removing the danger of a European convulsion in which Great Britain might have found herself involved. Even in France, where England is regarded as the "hereditary enemy," there may be discerned some little inclination to consider whether the national antipathy towards us is justified. The rivalries of Russia and Great Britain are losing their bitterness; and in whatever other direction we look the political barometer seems to indicate "set fair" for the present, so far as British interests are concerned. This should not lead to any relaxation in our preparedness for storms, but in the meantime it is permissible to take pleasure in the reflexion that the Empire is strong without and prosperous within and that the celebration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign is unlikely to be marred by dangerous international complications. In the hope that nothing may occur to disturb that happy prospect we wish our readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY.

In discussing the terms of the Russo-Chinese Treaty as published by our Shanghai morning contemporary, *The Times* takes a view of the matter which we hope will be endorsed by public opinion generally in the United Kingdom. The great London journal declares that there is room in the Far East for both Russia and Great Britain, but "the latter must simply strengthen her own positions and extend her markets, and, if ever her interests are directly assailed, must resist, if necessary, in arms." Fortunately *The Times* helps, more than any other organ of the Press, to mould public opinion, and undoubtedly exercises more influence on the Government than any party journal. What it says is invariably received with attention, and, if not exactly an oracle, it is certainly believed to reflect the most weighty portion of public opinion. When, therefore, we find *The Times*, which was once strongly anti-Russian, ready to concede to the great Northern Power the second most prominent place in the Far East it is a sure indication of a decided change in British policy. It is time that the irresistible logic of events was recognised. For many years Muscovite statesmen have been steadily working with the object of acquiring for Russia the position she now holds in the Pacific. Time has worked for Russia latterly, and hastened on the consummation desired. The war between China and Japan and the subsequent cession of a part of Manchuria to the victors gave Russia a most opportune chance of interfering to checkmate the one and to win the obligations of the other party. The rapid prosecution of that great work the Trans-Siberian Railway has brought Russia still nearer to her goal, and the Cabinet of St. Petersburg has not

been slow to avail itself of the opportunity offered for Russian claims to be pushed into the foreground. There is a steady unflinching continuity in Russian policy that is sure to make itself felt before long. For years the Russian Government, through their indefatigable representative, M. WAEBER, laboured and waited in Korea, gradually undermining both Chinese and Japanese influence until now Russian influence is all powerful at Seoul. At Peking, too, taking ready advantage of the turn of the cards, Count CASSINI has contrived to at length secure all that his Government ever hoped to win in the next twenty years whether by strategy, compulsion, or force of arms.

Muscovite diplomacy is indeed triumphant! But the Russian Government left nothing to mere chance. Simultaneously with the exercise of consummate statecraft, they pushed on the construction of the great Siberian railway, designed to open up communications and render Eastern Siberia reasonably accessible from the European base. At the same time the fleet in the Pacific was continually being strengthened until now it is fully a match in most particulars for the British Squadron, largely as that has been reinforced of late years. Even yet Russia is not satisfied, it would seem, for it is asserted she is sending the fine new cruiser *Kossia* out to replace the ironclad *Imperator Nicolai I.* Reuter tells us, moreover, in one of his latest despatches, that the Russian Government have ordered that the eight ironclads now building shall be completed with all despatch, and have resolved on the construction of two more powerful battleships, four cruisers, and two torpedo-boat destroyers. They are evidently determined to provide against all contingencies and no doubt firmly believe that Providence is on the side of the big battalions. It does not follow that they either intend or wish to use these great forces. Recent events have shown that they vastly prefer the victories won by a mere display of force. At the same time it is impossible for Great Britain to stand idly by while Russia makes this enormous display of force. However ready to concede to Russia the right to a great and active part in the politics of Eastern Asia, including a large extension of her influence in Korea and Manchuria, the British Government must needs keep a sharp look out for her own interests and see that these are not jeopardised or contracted by Russia's expansion. It must not be forgotten that Russia, like France and most Continental states, closes the markets she acquires to foreign goods, designing to give Russian goods a preference over them. This being the case, it is essential to Great Britain that she should retain the markets to which she has access and develop them as much as possible. If Russia secures Korea and Manchuria—and England is not anxious to oppose her in either country—it will become necessary for us to secure our markets in Central and Southern China, even to the extent perhaps of declaring a protectorate over them. The Chinese Government have shown themselves hopelessly incapable of protecting their own interests, and it may at any moment become indispensable to British and indeed foreign trade generally that the country should be administered by foreigners and its neutrality guaranteed. To that end it is obviously necessary that the British fleet in these waters should be further strengthened; the garrison in Hongkong largely increased; the frontiers of the colony extended; and Chusan or some other island secured for a coaling station within easy reach of Shanghai.

There are not wanting signs that the British Government are in a measure alive to the situation. The fleet is about, we believe, to be augmented by the addition of a new flagship, one of the vessels of the R. class of battleships, and several cruisers. Two torpedo-boat destroyers have already arrived, and we hope the other contemplated additions to the squadron will shortly be sent out. It would be reassuring to hear, also, that some sensible increase to the garrison of this colony is soon to be made, for the present force is insufficient to do more than man the guns in the forts. The expedition shown by Russia contrasts rather unpleasantly (for us) with the leisurely way in which reinforcements are allowed to dribble out from England. Whilst it is well to show Russia—and France—that we do not suspect them of sinister or hostile designs, it is also true policy to let all the world see that we leave nothing to chance and are in a position to face any sudden combination against us or to effectually protect our enormous and preponderating interests in the Far East.

THE NEED FOR MORE BATTLESHIPS.

The local branch of the Navy League, as announced in the Secretary's communication to the press the other day, is calling upon all British residents in the colony to sign a declaration to the effect that, having regard to the recent Admiralty Return of Comparative Naval Strength, they view with apprehension the alleged intention of the Admiralty to omit provision for the construction of new battleships from the forthcoming Navy Estimates, and therefore urge on Her Majesty's Government the necessity of taking such steps as will restore the predominance of the British Fleet as regards battleships and officers and men. This action is taken on the suggestion of the central office of the League, which has called for an expression of opinion on the subject, either by public meeting or otherwise, from all the towns in the United Kingdom and the branches abroad. The Increased Armaments Protest Committee have been speedily on the track of the Navy League, and at a meeting of the executive, held on the 4th December, Sir ROBERT HEAD presiding, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this committee learns with astonishment of the further audacious attempt of the Navy League to enlist the mayors of the United Kingdom in their mischievous propaganda, and, feeling that the facts give no warrant for such alarmist appeals, the committee is reluctantly compelled to memorialize the municipal officers in a contrary direction," and a statistical statement to show that the British Navy is already equal to four Continental fleets combined, together with other literature on the subject, is to be forthwith issued to all the mayors of the country. The statistical statement referred to cannot fail to prove interesting as an example of a defective power of weighing figures, for the evidence shows that our navy at present is, as regards battleships, not only not equal to four Continental navies, but is barely equal to the combined navies of France and Russia. The efforts of the Protest Committee will, however, prove useful in promoting discussion and in giving the Navy League a definite point of attack on which it can concentrate its forces and so carry conviction more readily to the mind of the nation, and for this reason the appearance of the Protest Committee

in the field is to be welcomed rather than deplored. We may give the members of that body credit for being inspired with motives as patriotic as those of the Navy League itself and can only trust that the discussion it provokes will result in the truth being established. To those of our readers who may be in doubt as to whether the declaration of the Navy League merits their signature or not, and who may lack the time, opportunity, or ability to analyse the figures for themselves, we commend the following plain and dispassionate statement, which we take from the *Naval and Military Record* :—

The apparently simple task of comparing one navy with another is, in reality, one of extreme difficulty. Some light-hearted critics are even content to take tonnage as the standard of measurement, and to assure us, on the strength of simple arithmetic, that our naval supremacy is assured. Other critics, again, have endeavoured to arrive at a definite conclusion by merely counting ships. It is needless to insist that neither method can furnish convincing results. In comparing one fleet of battleships with another we must take account of such points as speed, armament, coal capacity, period of construction, and so forth; any other method must be misleading and valueless. Again, we may point out that estimates of future relative strength need to be made upon precise data, and that it is absolutely useless to attempt to forecast relative naval power in the remote future, seeing that no man can say what or how many ships will be laid down from year to year. This is one of the errors into which Mr. W. H. WILSON has fallen in his anxiety to show that further efforts in shipbuilding are imperative for this country. Such arguments tend inevitably to excite the ire of those who are opposed to large expenditures upon armaments, and, on the whole, do harm rather than good. At the same time we hasten to acquit Mr. WILSON of any such intentions. He is simply an injudicious enthusiast who has unconsciously exaggerated the naval force of our rivals, and who is disposed to demand a standard of strength which we shall never attain. That the conclusions of the secretary of the Increased Armaments Protest Committee are absurdly prejudiced and optimistic, no naval officer will deny. This critic not only takes tonnage as the estimate of relative force, but ignores armament and other essential details.

To turn to facts, we have, as the return shows, a sum total of 45 battleships of all types, and we have 12 under construction. France and Russia combined have 39 built and 14 building. Of the 45 British battleships, no less than 16 were completed prior to 1880, and are armed with muzzle-loading guns. We are far from asserting that these 16 ships possess no fighting value, but it is by no means easy even for qualified experts to determine what that value precisely is. It has not been found possible to fit these ships with modern main armaments, and it is seriously questioned whether they could be safely included in the line of battle. Possibly they may be deemed fit to engage some of the older ships of the allies, but it has to be remembered that even the older vessels of France and Russia are armed with breech-loading guns. We shall not attempt to classify these 16 battleships, but we cannot admit them to be fit to meet the first shock of war in the line of battle. There are also other ships, such as the *Bellerophon*, built in 1865, the *Hero* and *Conqueror*, and even the *Thunderer* and *Devastation*, which can scarcely be reckoned with safety as fully suitable for the line of battle. Still, we have 28 battleships built since 1880 and armed with breech-loading guns, and these are practically the ones upon which the safety of the empire would depend if war broke out to-morrow. And many of these are superior in displacement, speed, and even in armament, to the best and newest ships of the Allies. A fine fleet, truly! And yet not strong enough to ensure victory against the Allies.

Turning to the French battleships, we find that ten out of the total of 29 already built are virtually obsolete. Six of these are built of wood and have been condemned, and all ten were built

prior to 1880. All carry breech-loading guns, but of these ten not one could be sent against our latest vessels. They can only be compared with the older ships of England, which we have temporarily eliminated from the calculation. Thus, France has, at the present moment, 19 effective battleships and six under construction. That these are fully capable of engaging the battleships of England is not, we believe, disputed. As regards the Russian navy, it is to be observed that all the battleships except the *Peter Velki* have been built since 1880, so that we cannot credit Russia with less than nine vessels of the line of battle. She has also eight under construction. Hence it will be seen that if war were declared to-morrow between this country and the Allies there would be 28 battleships of the first line on both sides. In other words, our naval supremacy is seriously menaced, owing to our neglect to reject muzzle-loading guns until some years after our rivals. An equality of battleships cannot ensure our supremacy, though it cannot be denied that we possess a bare equality of strength at the present moment. Hence, until we have recovered from the delay in adopting breech-loading guns, we shall be unwise to relax our efforts, or to consent without strong protest to any reduction of expenditure upon the fleet.

As regards the immediate future we cannot as yet make a forecast, even to the close of the century. We have now 12 ships building, as compared with 14 in the dockyards of the Allies—or 15, if we include the ship about to be laid down at Nicolaieff. If, which is of course absurd, no more ships were laid down on either side until the close of the century, the Allies would outnumber us by three battleships on the completion of the present programmes. It is obviously fruitless to consider this danger, except with due reservations. That we shall continue to lay down more ships under Mr. GOSCHEN'S administration cannot for a moment be doubted, and we trust that a sufficient number will be voted to counteract the recent activity of France and Russia. We can build faster than any other Power, and during the next five years we shall only need money to render our position tolerably secure. Thus, there is no cause for alarm, provided we continue our efforts, and no real danger, we trust, of the relaxation which is apprehended from the First Lord's recent speeches. But, on the other hand, there is some danger that Parliament may fail to realise the weakness of the 16 battleships still armed with obsolete weapons, and that these vessels may be officially included in our first line of defence. Our future programme should depend upon the shipbuilding efforts made by the Allies during the next few years, and to ensure the national safety it is absolutely imperative, in our opinion, that England should possess a superiority in battleships of modern construction and armament. The year 1897 ought to witness the laying down of at least six new battleships, over and above those already in the official programme. "If," said RICHARD COBDEN, "the French Government showed a sinister design to increase their navy to an equality with ours, then, after every explanation to prevent such an absurd waste, I should vote one hundred millions sterling rather than allow that navy to be increased to a level with ours." France has never attained the equality which COBDEN dreaded; but France in alliance with Russia may be said to have done so.

At Shanghai on the 23rd December, at about ten minutes to eight in the evening, a fire broke out in a native house situated off the Seward Road, some distance below the Hongkew Creek. The two Hongkew companies were promptly on the scene, followed soon after by those from the English Settlement, and no time was lost in getting to work, though much difficulty was experienced owing to want of hydrants. The cold was intense and in a short time some of the men presented the appearance of moving icebergs. The strong wind blowing greatly retarded the efforts of the firemen, and it was only after three blocks, containing about ten houses, had been completely destroyed that the fire was got under. The cause of the outbreak is at present unknown.—*N. C. Daily News.*

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS, 1896

JANUARY

- 1st—Rising against Japanese in North Formosa; suppressed on the 3rd.—Taikoo Athletic Sports.
- 2nd—Murder and Suicide at Shaukiwan.—Farewell gathering at the Soldiers and Sailors' Institute.
- 6th—Modification of Light and Pass Regulations.
- 8th—Piracy near Hongkong; two men shot.
- 9th—Demonstration of Admiral Makaroff's collision buffer.
- 11th—Arrival of the steamer *Bonnington*, supposed to be lost.
- 13th—Armed robbery at Quarry Bay.
- 15th—Roof of a building in the Mosque compound fell in; three men injured.—Fire at 30, Winglok Street.
- 16th—Departure of Sir Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice, for England.—Steamer *Poian* went aground in Canton river; no damage.—Fire in the basement of the old Victoria Hotel.
- 17th—Opening of Hongkong Chinese Chamber of Commerce.
- 18th—Laying of the foundation stone of the Po Leung Kuk Society's new home by H.E. the Governor.—Suicide of Captain Innes, of the *Kutwo*, at Shanghai.
- 20th—Steamer *On Sang* ran on Dunmail rock vessel badly damaged.
- 23rd—Address by Admiral Makaroff at City Hall on his device for minimising the effects of collisions at sea.
- 25th—Fire at 205, Queen's Road West; a woman and child burnt to death.
- 27th—Distribution of Prizes at the Diocesan School and Orphanage by H.E. the Governor.
- 28th—Funeral of Dr. Okotine, of the *Imperator Nicolai I.*
- 30th—Gymnastic meeting at Victoria Recreation Club.—Collapse of 13 houses at Shanghai.
- 31—Return of U.S. Chengtu Commission to Shanghai.

FEBRUARY

- 1st—Fire at 302, Queen's Road Central.
- 5th—Presentations to Dr. Cantlie.—Attempted escape from gaol.
- 6th—Prize distribution at Queen's College.—Fires at 56, Jervois Street, and 55, 57, and 59, Queen's Road West.—Distribution of ambulance certificates to the police by Major-General Black.
- 8th—"Creatures of Impulse" and "Trial by Jury" at Theatre Royal by A.D.C.—Fire at 133, Praya West.—Destructive fire at Yokohama.
- 11th—Li Hung-chang ordered to St. Petersburg as special envoy.
- 15th—Edgar Relief Fund Concert.
- 16th—Barque *Lynnwood* wrecked on the Pratas.
- 17th—Masonic Jubilee Ball at City Hall.—Conviction of Russian officers for sketching forts.
- 20th—Hongkong Race Meeting.
- 21st—Hongkong Race Meeting.
- 22nd—Hongkong Race Meeting.
- 23rd—Armed robbery at 163, Queen's Road West.—Explosion at Kiangyin; 200 lives lost.
- 26th—Fire at 309, Queen's Road Central.
- 27th—Singapore declared Hongkong an infected port.

MARCH

- 4th—Centenary of the London Missionary Society; public meeting in City Hall.—Opening of new Hongkong Golf House.
- 5th—The *Humber* ashore on the Pescadores.
- 7th—Hongkong Football Cup Final.
- 9th—Arrival of schooner *Emeralda* after an adventurous voyage.—Fire at 307, Queen's Road Central.
- 10th—*Spondilus* ashore on Cape Varella.—Outbreak of rinderpest at Dairy Farm.
- 12th—Armed robbery at Quarry Bay.
- 16th—St. Patrick's Dance.
- 26th—Concert by Philharmonic Society at City Hall.
- 28th—Annual dinner of Hongkong Football Club.
- 29th—The *Frejr* ashore at Cape Cami.

APRIL

- 1st—Li Hung-chang passed through the colony.
- 2nd—Return of Mr. John Andrew from Wuchow.

80th December.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DE. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE)

TRIAL OF MCKINLEY.—SENTENCE.

The trial was resumed of Charles S. McKinley, electrical engineer, charged with forging a letter with intent to defraud and with uttering the letter with intent to defraud.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings), prosecuted and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. K. W. Mounsey) defended.

Further evidence was called and Mr. Francis closed his case by putting in the statement made by the defendant at the Police Court.

Defendant then made a statement and dwelt at first upon his and Raymond's story relating to the concubine. He then said that he and Raymond had been in the habit of smuggling opium into Haiphong and he at length denounced Raymond to the French Consul. Raymond was, by defendant's instructions, watched by a man named A Yan, but as defendant had been in gaol for two months he had not been able to find this man. On the 3rd October he received further information, which he conveyed to the French Consul. When defendant was Raymond's partner he bought the opium, taking care to do so when the *Hanoi* was away and handing it to a woman. Raymond always took the stuff to his cabin. He had been in the habit of smuggling opium for the last six months to defendant's certain knowledge. On one occasion Raymond took some opium in a kerosine tin, on another occasion he took it as beer, and on a third occasion as medicine. The opium was always smuggled in small quantities as parcels. In regard to the letter he must know that the handwriting was not the handwriting of the defendant. The box had nothing to do with the case, but referred to a transaction defendant had with Mr. Hankinson, who was Messrs. Watson and Co.'s agent in Manila. Mr. Hankinson wanted to have Hongkong papers containing reports of the Philippine rebellion forwarded to him and he particularly asked for them not to be sent through the post. Defendant had a box made and filled it with papers, but about the 12th October he had a letter from Mr. Hankinson telling him not to send the papers. Mr. Hankinson arrived in Hongkong a few days later and remained here until the 27th, when he left for Japan. Defendant, when before the Magistrate, asked for a remand for a month in order to obtain the evidence of Mr. Hankinson and Mr. Hankinson returned to Hongkong, but without the solicitor for the defence being aware of his presence, and he went away before he could be subpoenaed. The box containing the papers was thrown into a lumber room at the works, but this room had evidently been cleared out since defendant's arrest, as it had been searched in vain. As to the box produced there was an important piece of evidence—

Mr. Francis said he did not like to interrupt, but if the defendant argued the case to the jury he would prevent his counsel from addressing the jury.

His Lordship said the defendant must not address the jury by way of argument, but only by way of facts.

The defendant did not proceed further.

Mr. Robinson then said he had to submit on a point of law that the indictment was not borne out by the evidence, and he contended (1) that the document in respect of which forgery was charged was not the subject of forgery at common law, and (2) that the evidence had not proved the ingredients of forgery; and therefore there was no case to go to the jury. The charge contained three intents—attempting to defraud the owners of the ship by exposing them to penalty and forfeiture, attempting to defraud the owners by depriving them of their freight on this parcel, and attempting to defraud Raymond by damaging his character and exposing him to a fine and loss of situation. With regard to the first of the three points counsel did not think any case could be found which went to the

3rd—Collision between the *Pekin* and *Normandie* at Shanghai.

4th—Sir Claude MacDonald entertained to luncheon at Hongkong Hotel by China Association.

7th—The *Actis* went ashore at Cape Cami.

8th—The *Eze* and the *Ocampo* stranded near Hongkong during a fog.—Fire at 18, Wing Wo Street.

10th—Lecture by Mr. W. E. Crow on criminal poisoning in Hongkong.—Sir Claude MacDonald entertained by Shanghai Branch of China Association.

13th—Rifle Brigade Sports.

15th—Annual Inspection of Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

17th—Lecture by Mr. H. E. Pollock on the Younger Pitt.

18th—Presentation to Mr. R. Cooke.

21st—Incendiary fire at 45, Praya West.

26th—Annual Prize Distribution at Victoria English Schools.

27th—Lecture by His Excellency the Governor on "Samples of Irish Wit and Humour."

30th—Collision between *On Wo* and *Newchwang* at Wocsung; great loss of life.

MAY.

2nd—Armed robbery and murder at Wanchai.

5th—German officers convicted of entering fortifications at Stonecutters' Island.

6th—Death of Mr. G. Fenwick in Montreal.

7th—Sentences on Germans convicted of entering fortifications reduced.

8th—Lecture by Mr. Granville Sharp on "Imperialism and the British Empire."

9th—Incendiary fire at 12, Sutherland Street.—First Gymkhana meeting of the season.

11th—Annual meeting of Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

13th—Arrival of His Honour Dr. Carrington (Chief Justice).—Annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

15th—Poll taken on the constitution of the Sanitary Board.

16th—Result of Sanitary Board poll declared.

18th—Welcome to the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.

22nd—Address by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., on the Navy League.

23rd—The *John Baiseley* ashore at Macao.

25th—Serious affray on the *Martha*; two coolies shot.—Dance at Government House in celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

28th—Queen's statue unveiled by H.E. the Governor.

29th—Two Chinamen sent to gaol for twelve years for arson.—Address by Mr. Francis on "The influence of sea power on history."

JUNE.

4th—F. Walker sent to prison for embezzling \$2,572.

6th—Ship *Flora P. Stafford* burnt at sea; crew saved.

15th—A kerosine boat destroyed by fire in the harbour; three lives lost.—Death of Inspector Moffatt from plague.—Tidal wave in Japan; 27,000 lives lost.

27th—Suicide of the Dean of Macao.

29th—Fire on the *Glen Caladh* in the harbour.

JULY.

7th—Execution of the Wanchai murderer.

12th—Murder of a lukong at Hongkong.

13th—Dr. Yersin, the discoverer of a cure for plague, in Hongkong.

19th—Presentation to Dr. Marques.

24th—Newchwang flooded.

27th—Mr. Haas, Consul General for Austria-Hungary at Shanghai, drowned.

29th—Typhoon in Hongkong and Macao.—German gunboat *Ilis* lost in a typhoon.

31st—Distribution of Prizes at Bellios Public School.

AUGUST.

2nd—Departure of Dr. Marques from the colony.

7th—Annual Prize distribution of Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

9th—Gale in Hongkong.—Trial of Lai Mit at Nam Tan.

13th—*Gaelic* ashore at Shimonoseki.

23rd—Hongkong shooting party attacked by Chinese at Deep Bay.

25th—Rifle Brigade birthday sports.—Murder of a fortune teller at Hongham.

26th—Disastrous fire at Hokodate; 2,700 houses destroyed.

28th—Opening of new organ at Roman Catholic Cathedral.

29th—Commencement of rebellion in the Philippines.

SEPTEMBER.

4th—Death of Capt. McEuen, formerly of Hongkong, at Yokohama.—V.E.C. Sports; speech by the Governor.

19th—Double murder at Causeway Bay.—Meeting in Hongkong protesting against increase in telegraph rates.—Arrival of the crew of the *Flora Stafford*, which was burnt at sea.

22nd—Strike of night soil coolies.

25th—Annual meeting of Hongkong Cricket Club.

30th—Lai Mit, the murderer of a lukong, beheaded at Kowloon.

OCTOBER.

2nd—Meeting of Hongkong Jockey Club.

5th—Typhoon to the south of Hongkong.

9th—Mr. Troughton, secretary to Rear-Admiral Oxley, drowned at Sivoutch, Korea.

12th—Encampment of Hongkong Volunteers.

14th—Tornado at Tientsin.—Benevolent Society's Concert.

20th—Death of Major Moore, A.P.D.

22nd—Death of W. H. Carew, of Yokohama.

23rd—Annual meeting Hongkong Branch of the Navy League.

28—Fire at 137, Winglok Street.

NOVEMBER.

1st—Bishop Burdon delivered his farewell sermon in St John's Cathedral.—Death of a Diocesan schoolboy; allegations against a teacher.

6th—Conclusion of Carew inquest; open verdict returned.

7th—Production of "Fra Diavolo" by the Rifle Brigade.

10th—Opening of Chinese Consulate at Yokohama.

11th—Mrs. Carew arrested at Yokohama on a charge of poisoning her husband.

13th—Opening of Po Leung Kuk Society's new home.

16th—Arrival of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

19th—Major Carrington's first Volunteer parade.

23rd—Departure of the Rifle Brigade for Singapore.

25th—Coroner's jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death in the inquest respecting the death of the Diocesan School-pupil.

28th—Departure of Bishop Burdon for home.

30th—St. Andrew's Ball at the City Hall.—Execution of Causeway Bay murderer.

DECEMBER.

1st—Boiler explosion on the M. M. steamer *Saghalien* near Saigon; sixteen men killed.

3rd—Opening of Legislative Council Session.—The Governor met the Directors of Tung Wa Hospital.

8th—Fire at 18, New Street; three deaths.

10th—Death of M. Armand Rousseau, Governor-General of Indo-China.—Victoria Regatta.—Three hundred people burnt in a native theatre at Foochow.

11th—Victoria Regatta.

17th—Hongkong Philharmonic Society's concert.—Police pinnace sunk in the harbour; a lukong drowned.

18th—Death of Mr. M. A. Baptista, artist.—Engineers' Dance at City Hall.

19th—Production of "Charley's Aunt" by Hongkong A.D.C.

25th—Christmas concert at Government Civil Hospital.

The Christmas member of the *Rattle* appears in a cover of crimson and gold and with a double page Christmas cartoon depicting a children's Christmas tree, a Christmas dance, a Christmas paper hunt, and Christmas up country, with "Rattle" himself in the centre, supported by a European and a Sikh constable, wishing everybody a merry Christmas. Amongst the portraits on the other pages we find one of "H.E. from Hongkong" and another of Captain Winsloe of the *Spartan*. The following joke appears under a picture of a young man and a girl in a trap:—"Where are you driving me to, Mr. Green?" "Just coming to The Point, Miss Mashem." Miss M. (*sotto voce*).—Great Scott! Is he coming to it at last!

length of the contention in this case. The second point was of an ordinary character, but in regard to both points there was no evidence of intent and they did not come within the rule referred to by his learned friend as being the necessary consequence of the letter. In regard to the third point counsel submitted that the consent of the party had first of all to be obtained. It was not the natural consequence of asking a favour that it would be granted, and there was no case where an attempt to do a man an indirect injury of this sort by means of a false document had been held to be forgery. Take away the opium and there was no fraud whatever in the instrument.

His Lordship, without calling upon Mr. Francis, decided that there was a case to go to the jury and explained that, in regard to the first point raised by the learned counsel for the defence, it had occurred to him whether the suggested intents in this case were such as brought the case within the definition of forgery at common law, and he had therefore, having felt a difficulty on the point, carefully examined the authorities with a view of determining the question himself beforehand. He had arrived at an opinion in the matter and the learned counsel's argument had not shaken that opinion. He thought that the intents—at any rate two of them—were such as to bring the case within the definition of forgery. He would when addressing the jury explain the question of intent and therefore would not do so now. Of course it had to be borne in mind that it had been decided it was not necessary to give proof to defraud any particular person. It was quite sufficient if the jury were satisfied that by means of a false document the prisoner's intent was to defraud generally, although it might be that no person was defrauded or could have been defrauded. In regard to the first point, that this document was not, under the circumstances, capable of sustaining the information, his Lordship said he had listened to what the learned counsel had said and to the cases he quoted, and he thought there could be no doubt that a letter was a document within the meaning of the definition. The counsel had also suggested that the document and the parcel must be taken together and that therefore there was no document in which forgery stood by itself and could be charged in the information. In regard to that his Lordship took this view: if the letter were a forgery, a false document, then it produced a certain state of things to the prejudice of Raymond and the box was not connected with the letter so as to affect the question of forgery of the letter in itself. It was true that the box went with the letter, and it was true that it formed part of the scheme which was, to assume for the moment, in the mind of the writer; but the letter produced a certain effect to the prejudice of the prosecutor, and in point of law his Lordship thought the letter was clearly a document capable of being forged. The case therefore must go to the jury.

The Court then adjourned until 1.45 for luncheon.

On his Lordship returning to Court Chan Tsung Fat, one of the jurors, was absent and he did not return until 2.10.

His Lordship—Mr. Chan Tsung Fat, why are you so late?

Chan Tsung Fat—I understood the Court adjourned until a quarter-past two. I made a mistake.

His Lordship—How is everybody else here at a quarter to two and you are not here till 2.15?

Chan Tsung Fat—I made a mistake, my Lord.

His Lordship—I cannot doubt your word, but you are very careless.

Mr. Francis then addressed the jury and at the outset commented upon the statement made by the prisoner, who had practically confessed that, owing to a quarrel about a girl, he sent the letter and the parcel out of a spirit of revenge and with a desire in some way to punish Raymond and get even with him. In regard to the box, how did the customs officers, who on seeing it said "That's what we want," know that that was the particular box if the defendant's information to the French Consul was not precise and if he did not know

what kind of a box it was? How could the defendant have known that, how could he have given that information, if he had not himself been the sender of the box? His explanation about the box was an utterly futile old woman's tale and the story was utterly absurd. It did no credit to himself in inventing such a story and in trying to make the jury believe it. Counsel asked the jury to return a verdict of guilty against the defendant on both counts.

Mr. Robinson, for the defence, said that the defendant was guilty of an intent only against Raymond or was not guilty at all. Practically speaking, the learned counsel for the prosecution did not contend that the defendant's intent was to defraud the owners of the *Hanoi*. But where was there a tittle of evidence to prove that the defendant uttered the letter or forwarded the box? There was only this—that the letter is in the handwriting of the defendant, and therefore when he uttered it he knew it was false. If the jury could lay their hands on their hearts and say "Yes, the defendant wrote that letter," then he was guilty; they need not consider anything else. Counsel then spoke about the making of the box and contended that the evidence of the witnesses as to the date it was made was not reliable enough to justify the contention of the prosecution that the date was before the 3rd October, when a box was sent on board the *Hanoi*. As to the motive for giving information the defendant had never disguised it. His motive was to injure Raymond, because Raymond had wronged him cruelly by taking away the mother of his child. But because a man has a motive to injure another it did not follow that he would injure him. Raymond had smuggled opium for the past six months and no doubt in order to divert suspicion he carried innocent letters with him such as the one which it was suggested the defendant wrote. Counsel contended that the writing in the letter was more like the writing of a Frenchman than of an Englishman. He did not think Raymond wrote it, but he got someone in Haiphong to write it in order to free himself.

His Lordship, in summing up, pointed out at some length the legal bearings of the case and read from text books various definitions of "intent to defraud," which was the chief ingredient of the offence of forgery. He did not know of any case on all fours with the present case, but he thought, after consideration, that the case fell within the proposition of law laid down in regard to the question of the intent to defraud. In speaking of the facts of the case his Lordship said that during the two days' trial they had not breathed a very healthy moral air in this matter. They had heard of men keeping concubines, then quarrelling and backbiting one another, and, as far as the defendant was concerned at any rate, engaging in smuggling opium. All this was not a very pleasing exhibition of human nature. In regard to the words "Yours fraternally" in the letter, the jury had to decide whether anyone not a mason would use such a term as that. If the defendant did write that letter it was a sad thing, because masons had always been reputed as having the greatest loyalty and good will to one another, and it seemed a base thing to use a term like that in order to entrap a brother mason. His Lordship also commented upon the fact that the defendant in his statement at the Police Court gave no explanation about the box. The witnesses had identified the box as having been made at the request of McKinley and it was quite clear that it was sent to Haiphong. The defendant had admitted having had a box made, but said that it was for a friend in Manila and had been placed in a lumber room. But the defence had not suggested that two boxes were made nor were the witnesses asked if they had made two boxes for the defendant, and the jury had to consider that matter and say whether the defendant's explanation was a reasonable one. If the jury believed that when the Customs officers saw the box in the drawer and exclaimed "That is what we want," that evidence would show that the person who gave information to the French Consul undoubtedly knew what kind of a box was used for the carriage of the opium. His Lordship concluded

by saying that the theory of the prosecution involved a very painful charge, as it was almost dastardly act to get a man who had been a friend and a chum for some time into gaol and involving him in a heavy fine. But still, if the jury thought that the facts had been proved it was their duty to find the defendant guilty, although they might sympathise with him in the scrape in which he had got himself. On the other hand, if they thought there was a reasonable doubt in the case they must give the prisoner the benefit of it and acquit him.

The jury, after an absence of a few minutes, returned a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship—Charles McKinley, you have been found guilty on very clear evidence. I am very sorry that a respectable and intelligent man like you should have let your evil passions carry you so away. I have not power to award hard labour; you must go to prison for fifteen months.

A JURYMAN'S FINE REMITTED.

His Lordship said he had received a letter from Mr. H. S. Cooke, the juryman who was fined \$5 for not attending the court. The letter gave explanations and his Lordship had decided to give Mr. Cooke the benefit of the doubt and to remit the fine.

THE NAVY LEAGUE AND THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.

The following letter from the head office of the Navy League has been handed to us by the Secretary of the Local Branch—

The Navy League,
13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.
27th November, 1896.

Dear Sir,—By last week's mail I forwarded two *Daily Chronicles* of the 3rd and 5th November, and would draw your attention to the letters of Mr. H. W. Wilson, the Editor of the *Navy League Journal* and the author of "Ironclads in Action," and also to that of Sir Charles Dilke.

The former deals with the all important question of the manning of the fleet. The latter is a review of the return issued by the House of Commons last August on the "Navy and the fleets of Great Britain and other Countries." This Parliamentary return, price 6d., can be obtained from any bookseller.

As the naval estimates are now in course of preparation and Mr. Goschen and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, have expressed their opinions in favour of a reduction of those estimates next year, my Committee think it most important that an expression of opinion should come from every branch of the Navy League (and we hope from every town in the United Kingdom) urging Government to lay on the table of the House of Commons next March naval estimates which shall be adequate to the needs of this great Empire and which shall ensure for us in the year 1899 a fleet of sufficient magnitude to be able to cope satisfactorily with those of any probable combination which might be brought against us.

I shall therefore be obliged if you can arrange for a meeting in your town at an early date, from which a resolution shall emanate to the above effect. However, if this be not possible, I trust you will see your way to calling a meeting of the members of the Branch in your locality, and that a resolution will be passed expressing dissatisfaction with the present strength of our navy, and demanding adequate naval estimates in the coming year.

It is abundantly clear, according to the opinions of our highest naval experts, including such well-known names as Lord Charles Beresford, Admiral Lord Hood of Avalon, Admiral Sir Vesey Hamilton, the last two of whom were for three years First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, and the latter is now a member of our Executive Committee, that at the present time our fleet is not strong enough to meet any probable combination which might be brought against us, as we have not enough battleships by at least a dozen (built and building), and we are very far short of the necessary number of officers and men to man the fleet.

There is an additional reason why I am most anxious to get an expression of opinion from our Branches on this subject, namely, that

that a body called the "Increased Armaments Protest Committee" has recently been called into existence for the express purpose of endeavouring to stifle our action. Of course, no person who has any knowledge of naval affairs, or who has made a study of our position, would pay the smallest attention to the statements of this body; but after all, the bulk of our countrymen are at the present time absolutely ignorant regarding the actual strength of our fleet, and of course they have no notion of its strength as compared with those of other nations.

You will have seen the correspondence in the *Times* of November 21st and on several preceding dates entitled "Comparative Sea-Power" and there is no doubt that we shall have more work still to do in refuting the fallacies put forward by the "I.A.P.C."

My idea is that we should collect the opinions of all our Branches and publish them in our *Journal*, which is now increasing its circulation, and its opinions are being quoted in the London dailies, as well as in the Service papers.

Whenever a strong statement issues from the "I.A.P.C." it will be our endeavour to nail it to the counter. You will find on page 11 of the November *Journal* a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Navy League, which was widely circulated throughout the Press.

It is important that whatever action you can see your way to take in this matter should be taken with as little delay as possible. We are arranging for a large number of meetings in different parts of the United Kingdom, in order that the country may speak in no uncertain voice on this subject, as it did at the end of 1888, when by so doing it secured the Naval Defence Act of March, 1889, which added 75 new ships to our fleet, and this in spite of the fact that the First Lord of the Admiralty in December, 1888, informed the House of Commons that the navy was adequate for all purposes.

Trusting that you will accede to the request of my Committee and that you will let me know what action, if any, you propose to take.—I remain, dear sir, yours very truly,

H. T. C. KNOX,

Hon. Secretary to the Navy League.
The Hon. Secretary, Hongkong Branch.

P.S.—I am much obliged by your letter of 27th October giving an account of your annual meeting.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, writes us as follows:—

At a Committee Meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League held this morning (31st December) it was resolved to call upon all the British subjects in this colony to sign the following expression of opinion, copies of which will be extensively circulated for that purpose:—

"The undersigned British residents in Hongkong, having regard to the recent Admiralty return of comparative naval strength, view with apprehension the alleged intention of the Admiralty to omit provision for the construction of new battleships from the forthcoming Navy Estimates, and therefore urge on Her Majesty's Government the necessity of taking such steps as will restore the predominance of the British Fleet as regards battleships and officers and men."

The enclosed cutting from the *Navy League Journal* for November with reference to the Mediterranean fleet clearly demonstrates, when taken in connection with the Admiralty return above alluded to, the pressing necessity which exists for a liberal expenditure being made upon the Navy.

(Enclosure.)

Sir Richard Temple should read his *Navy League Journal* before he addresses Conservative working men, and should shun injudicious spread eagleism. He has just been telling the aforesaid working men (1) that "our line of coaling stations formed a perfect girdle round the globe, each being able to hold its own against any foreign force that might reasonably be brought against it." How about Sierra Leone, without a garrison, close to the French colony of Senegambia, which supports a small army? How about the Falklands, without a gun? (2)

He asserted that "the British Fleet in the Mediterranean was more than equal to any force that the French had there, even in alliance with the Russians." Now what are the facts? In the Mediterranean we have twelve battleships (two of which have been temporarily sent home), two coast defence ships, two first-class, five second-class, and four third-class cruisers, seven torpedo gunboats, rams, or depot ships, and fifteen torpedo boats or destroyers. We give a short table of the French and Russian forces:—

	Battleships.	C. Defence ships.	Armoured Cruisers.	Gr. & Tor. Gunboats.	Torpedo Boats.
France—					
Active Squadron	8	...	2	12	5
Reserve Squadron	4	1	1	5	1
In Reserve	2	...	2	7	50
Under Trial	3	...	...	...	...
Russia—					
Mediterranean Squadron	2	...	...	1	2
Black Sea Fleet	5	...	...	5	31
	24	1	5	30	89

Our public men should look at facts and figures before they make such statements as these,

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 31st December. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

PLAGUE AT BOMBAY AND TAMSUI.

Reports showing the progress of plague at Bombay and Tamsui were laid on the table.

THE OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX.

The following reports of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the outbreak of smallpox in the colony were considered and it was resolved to forward them to the Colonial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Governor:—

Sanitary Board Offices,

Hongkong, 28th December, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to report, for the information of the Board, a small outbreak of smallpox among Europeans and Chinese in No. 1 Health District. On the 15th inst. I saw the dead body of a Chinese boy, aged 11, whose death had been registered as due to phthisis, at 14, Jardine's Bazaar, and I certified that death had resulted from smallpox. No further cases were, however, heard of in that district until I received information from Dr. Rennie on the 26th inst. of two European cases at the China Sugar Refinery and one European case at the ice factory at East Point; these cases were duly removed to hospital and the premises disinfected and cleansed. In consequence of a statement made by the houseboy at the Sugar Refinery that there were several cases of smallpox among the Chinese in Jardine's Bazaar, I obtained from the Hon. the Captain Superintendent of Police the services of three Sikh policemen from 8 a.m. yesterday morning and having stationed them at the exits from the street I made a house inspection, acting under section 2 of Ordinance 9 of 1895, and as a result of this inspection I discovered two additional cases of smallpox, one an old man who had died some few hours previous to my visit and the other a lad of sixteen, who was sent to the hospital. I gathered that the old man was employed at the Sugar Refinery and had been ill for about a month, while the lad had been ill for some five or six days and was said to have come from the mainland some ten days ago. The fourth European case was reported to me yesterday evening by Dr. Maclean, of the Naval Hospital, the patient being a sick berth attendant. He developed the disease on the 25th inst. and was removed yesterday by the Naval authorities to their hospital ship *Midge*. On Sunday, the 13th inst., he attended a prayer meeting at Miss Johnstone's home, West Point, at which a number of men from the Sailors' Home were present, and although neither of the two men who have since developed smallpox was at that meeting, yet I am inclined to attribute this man's attack to infection contracted

at that place. The cases at the Sugar Refinery and ice factory would appear to have contracted the disease in some way from Chinese in the neighbourhood.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

Sanitary Board Offices,

Hongkong, 28th December, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board, a small outbreak of smallpox in the Western district of the city. The death occurred at 2, Pokfulam Road, of a Chinese male child, aged 7 years, on December 10th, which proved to have been from smallpox. On the 22nd inst. the dead body of a female child, aged about 6 years, was found by an Indian police constable upon the Reclamation near Wilmer Street, and the child had also died from smallpox. On December 25th two Chinese cases were reported, one from 364, and the other from 381, Queen's Road West (these houses are about 200 yards apart) and one European case was also reported on this date in the person of a sergeant of Police stationed at No. 7 Police Station. On the following day a European case was reported from the Sailors' Home. The sergeant of Police was on patrol duty on the 10th and 11th inst.; on the 12th he executed an opium warrant at Nos. 1 and 3, Lan U Lane, and on the 13th inst. he was on leave for 24 hours. He attended divine service at the Sailors' Home in the morning and spent the rest of the day in his quarters and his evening at the Hongkong Hotel, where he probably met the men from the Wanchai Sugar Refinery who have also developed smallpox. The first patient from the Sailors' Home arrived in the colony from Tacoma on December 8th and went straight to the Sailors' Home, but slept out for two or three nights. He was taken ill on December 22nd and removed to hospital on the 25th. It is impossible to ascertain, except from the man himself, where he slept on the night of the 10th inst., but he probably contracted the infection upon that date and presumably from some Asiatic. The second patient from the Sailors' Home arrived there on November 19th and left on December 21st to join the barque *E. B. Thomas*, now lying in the harbour. He came ashore this morning, was seen by Inspector Fisher before he had time to enter the Sailors' Home (whither he was bound), and was taken to hospital. I immediately informed the Health Officer of the Port of this case and he has doubtless taken the necessary precaution in respect to the remainder of the crew.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

THE CHINESE PASSENGERS ACT AND BRITISH SHIPPING.

The China Association has published for the information of members of the Association, pending the appearance of the annual report in February, the correspondence that has passed with reference to the Chinese Passenger Act and British Shipping and the transit duty question. The following letters give the result of the agitation on the first of these subjects:—

GENERAL COMMITTEE TO SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG COMMITTEES.

31, Lombard Street, 12th June, 1896.

Sir,—In pursuance of my letter of the 6th March, I have the pleasure of transmitting copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, saying that the proposed legislation "for the regulation of Chinese Passenger Ships" will not be persevered with; Mr. Chamberlain feeling confident that the Association will discountenance any overcrowding.

(Signed) R. S. GUNDRY,

Hon. Sec. China Association.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO CHINA ASSOCIATION.

Downing Street, 8th June, 1896.

Sir,—Referring to the letter from this Office of the 27th of February last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that, having considered the Draft Hongkong Ordinance "for the regulation of Chinese passenger

ships on voyages of not more than seven days duration," which was duly forwarded by the Governor of Hongkong, and having consulted the Marquis of Salisbury and the Board of Trade on the subject, he has given instructions that the Bill shall be withdrawn, thereby concurring in the advice which was tendered to him by the Hongkong Government.

Mr. Chamberlain is confident that the China Association will use their endeavours to discourage such overcrowding on British-owned vessels as gave rise to the present correspondence.

(Signed) EDWARD FAIRFIELD.

E. S. Gundry, Esq., Hon. Secretary China Association.

HONGKONG COMMITTEE TO GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Hongkong, 17th July, 1896.

Sir,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 12th ultimo, handing copy of letter from the Colonial Office, from which the Committee learn with much satisfaction that instructions had been given for the withdrawal of the Bill intended for the further control of British vessels carrying Chinese passengers on voyages of not more than seven days' duration.

The Committee have again to thank you for timely assistance in agitating against a measure which, if persevered in, would certainly have proved detrimental to British interests.

(Signed) F. HENDERSON,

Hon. Secretary.

E. S. Gundry, Esq., Hon. Secretary China Association, London.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SERIOUS REBEL DEFEATS.

We are indebted to the Spanish Consul for copies of the following telegrams received from the Governor-General of Manila:—

MANILA, 2nd January.

On the 1st January our troops carried on operations at Cacarong, Bizaa, and Bulacan, taking six trenches, the manufactory of cartridges, seven guns and several small guns, many rifles, and other weapons.

The rebels had 1,100 killed (counted), amongst them the greater part of the native soldiers who have deserted.

Our casualties were 24 killed and 68 wounded.

MANILA, 4th January.

General Galbis, with 200 men, supported by columns under Serradi and Albert, at Taging and other places in the region of the river Pasig, routed 3,000 rebels from Cavite commanded by a man known by the rebels as General Aquinaldo, taking several trenches, one large gun, several small guns, and military effects. Many rebels were killed, 32 being counted. Our casualties were 10 killed and 18 wounded. The marine helped efficiently the operations. Our troops are actively pursuing the enemy. Bulacan and Bataan, the Pasig region, now free of rebels.

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT'S IMPRESSIONS.

Manila, 14th December.

When I arrived in Manila, nearly a week ago, affairs there were in a state of transition owing to the change in the government of the islands, the Marquis Polavieja having only arrived a day or two to take over supreme command from General Blanco (Marquis Plena Plata). General Blanco was relieved of the duties of Governor-General and Captain-General on Thursday, 10th inst., when he handed over his responsible and arduous office to his successor, but it was not until Sunday, 13th inst. that General Polavieja officially assumed the post. That function was attended by a striking ceremony inside the ancient walled city of Manila, as distinguished from the greater city which has grown up on the north side of the Pasig River. Attended by his full staff, all in brilliant uniform, and in the presence of many thousands of people of many nationalities, the new Governor-General received from the hands of the chief municipal dignitary the massive silver key of the city and briefly vowed to guard it well and truly, and keep it secure against the attacks of all enemies. A gorgeous proces-

sion was then formed to the Cathedral, where an imposing religious ceremony took place. In no city in the Far East could such a remarkable *mise-en-scene* be presented, for Manila is marvellously picturesque, mediæval, with all the colour and architectural beauty of an ancient city of Southern Europe. Except for the patches of Asiatic colour lent by the presence of Philipinos and the Chinese in the crowd, the scene was entirely European, and Spanish. The Cathedral itself is a lovely old building, such as exists in hundreds in the old cities of the Peninsula, and the assemblage of Europeans, including Spanish grandees, resplendent officials, and soldiery, must have numbered as many as half the foreign communities in the Far East could muster altogether. There are at the present moment in Manila alone at least 16,000 Spanish troops of all arms. This estimate does not include the Spanish volunteers (1,000), the native regiments, which number ten, and give a total of about 8,000 troops. It can therefore be easily imagined what a great pageant is like in Manila, where every one is attired in full dress or uniform upon such occasions. Under the magnificent doric gateway of the Cathedral, members of the most ancient European corporation in Asia stood in their official robes, with military band discoursing patriotic airs to receive the new Governor-General. Crowds of church dignitaries in full canonicals were around the entrance. It is difficult for an outsider to realize how intimately associated in every phase of life in Spain and her colonies are the church and state intermingled. The two must be taken together and reckoned with everywhere, but whether this arrangement, this complete co-operation, or rather fusion of spiritual and temporal interests works well here, it is too early yet for me to discuss. Even amongst the Spaniards themselves there is fierce difference of opinion thereon. Amongst the natives of this most prosperous part of the Philippines there is none. And herein lies a vast deal of the present trouble. Sunday's brilliant function in the Cathedral, however, symbolized the entire relations of the church and state. If the new Governor-General of the Philippines has the power of life and death over some eight millions of people to whom he is the viceroy of the young king of Spain, the Archbishop of Manila and the friars wield a power that is scarcely inferior to his. Indeed, it is in some ways superior, as it can make or unmake, and procure in Madrid the appointment or recall of the Governor-General, as it has undoubtedly procured the recall of General Blanco. But that respected and worthy representative of Spanish chivalry, though he has been superseded in the government of the Philippines, has been appointed to the command of the Queen's Bodyguard, a post which General Polavieja, his successor here, held up to the time of his appointment as Captain-General of the Philippines. Officially viewed, the command of the Queen's Bodyguard is a post of the highest honour, but under the circumstances General Blanco's promotion to a post of dignified inactivity, however honourable, is rightly regarded as an admission on the part of the Ministers in Madrid that a Governor-General of more decision and energy is required for the Philippines, if the rebellion is to be suppressed. It was a somewhat curious feature in Sunday's function that the Archbishop of Manila did not attend it in person, but remained in his palace, where he was afterwards waited upon in state by the new Governor-General. An odd feature of the procession—which mustered in the plaza on the occasion—were the thousands of natives dressed in fanciful costumes, something like old guildsmen in Europe, and the Chinese, who turned out in strong force, dressed in their best silks and the paraphernalia that we in China see so much of about China New Year; but every man had his tail tied up in a knot under his hat. They do not wear them hanging down in Manila for obvious reasons. They are hated and oppressed here as much as in the woolliest part of the wild and woolly West, but despite all their disabilities they contrive to amass great wealth. The Chinaman excels all foreigners here in his ability to "square" matters with the Spanish officials, who are probably the hardest and most difficult to deal with in any part of the

globe. People in China complain of the restrictions and annoyances of doing business where the Chinese authorities have to be dealt with. But they know nothing of Manila or they would not complain. It is simply incredible to hear how every regulation is twisted by the local officials to annoy and embarrass the merchant, whether Spanish, foreign, or Chinese, and the wonder is, not that the trade of this magnificent country is disgracefully small after nearly four hundred years of Spanish administration, but that any exists at all. In subsequent letters I will deal with this subject more fully.

The address which the new Captain-General delivered to the inhabitants of the Philippines and the troops is worth translating as disclosing in some degree his intentions and the line of policy he intends to pursue. The address to the inhabitants proceeds:—

At a most critical time, indeed, I have come to take charge of the government of this archipelago. Ingratitude and forgetfulness of the benefits received by the natives of the islands are united with despicable sentiments of criminal ambition with which an insignificant minority have succeeded in inflaming the ignorant masses, who without knowing what they want, and where they are drifting, have spread terror and alarm over a country that has always hitherto been a model of tranquillity and repose. In taking supreme direction of affairs I tender my sincere salutations to the loyal inhabitants of the Philippines whose noble sentiments are characteristic of the Spanish people. When H.M. the Queen Regent and the Government honoured me with their confidence they were fully acquainted with the policy I generally adopt in governing. For the loyal I have nothing but affection and protection. For traitors all my energy appears to me too little, all my vigour seems disproportioned to the magnitude of the crime of which they are guilty against their King and against their country. But I shall none the less make a distinction between those who fell to ambition and weakness and those who were carried into the criminal current merely through ignorance, or who were seduced by misconception and calumny. To those who are repentant and fully understand now their heinous and foolish conduct I am prepared to grant full pardon according as the sincerity of their repentance merits. To those who persist in their evil conduct and disloyalty I shall apply the full rigour of the law. Do not expect any special programme of government from me. I am prone rather to prove practically my patriotism and intentions by deeds than to bespeak happy and prosperous days by shining promise. Relying upon your co-operation and your loyalty I hope within a short period to be able to report to the Queen and the Government that the people (of the Philippines) have again returned to their ordinary life and are prepared to develop that material prosperity whose foundations are honesty and labour and that the sad events of the present time are not likely to be repeated again in this fine country, or that the great benefits the people have received will be again forgotten while they have been the constant care of the king and country.

To the Soldiers of the Army and Navy:—The whole world admires and proclaims your military virtues, valour, sobriety, abnegation, and discipline, and they are universally acknowledged as belonging to the Spanish soldier. The country requires your services now. The Queen has rested her hopes upon your loyalty, both Peninsulars and Natives. Your commander-in-chief, relying upon your courage and loyalty, is assured of victory. I need not remind you of what is your duty. Nobody need teach the Spanish soldier his duties; he knows them when he is born; he feels them and knows that he must have courage to the last; and he is also aware that without discipline no triumph is possible, that offence must be washed out with blood, and that life is of no value when the honour of the country has to be defended. The time for the struggle has arrived; let us fight as good soldiers and we will prove ourselves worthy of those who have in all times hoisted so high the most glorious flag of Spain!

To the Volunteers:—To the cry of sedition on the part of the traitors, you loyalists have

responded with a shout of devotion and enthusiasm, offering your lives and property on the altar of your country. Your gallant bearing in the days of danger guarantees your demeanour while the rebellion lasts. I rely upon your assistance and your numbers, and hope that within a short time your sacrifice and patriotism will be seen to have not been in vain.

Cavite, 15th December.

The provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Manila, and Laguna are still the great rebel strongholds, but it has also spread into Pampanga, Tayabas, Bataan, and Batanga, while predatory bands raid the two southern provinces of Luzon, namely, Camarines Norte and Camarines. The Spanish garrison under General Aguirre holds Cavite, though he is surrounded by the rebels on all sides, except on the coast, which the Spanish flotilla of two cruisers, *Reina Cristina* and *Villalobos*, and about a dozen small obsolete gunboats dominate. The situation in Manila is a strange one. We are living in a state of siege under martial law, but admirable order is maintained. Executions of rebels are of such common occurrence that they have quite lost all excitement or novelty. We had 21 yesterday at Cavite, 4 on Monday on the Lunetta of Manila, which is the Manila Bubbling Well Road, a fashionable but more beautiful drive. The suburbs for some four miles are subject to intermittent razzias by the rebels, who, after exchanging a few shots with the Spanish videttes, retire towards Cavite, which is only distant 8 miles by sea. It is now quite impossible to reach Cavite round the bay, as the western and southern shore is in the hands of the enemy. From where I write we can see the bombardment of the rebels outside Cavite when it takes place, so close are the opposing lines. The outlying roads containing many luxurious residences of both Spaniards and Mestizos are deserted. All the streets are guarded by troops, but there is no panic, and confidence seems to be again growing. Bands play every afternoon on the Lunetta, society drives out in its best dresses as usual, and the cafés on the Escolta are thronged all day, mostly by officers. The chief danger which the Spanish dread is the spread of the disaffection amongst the native troops forming one-third of the army, numbering 28,000 Spanish and natives combined. The Spanish troops are mostly very young lads just recruited, while the natives are veterans used to the country and climate. They are treacherous and disloyal, excepting a few regiments, but form excellent fighting material for guerilla operations, hardy, brave, and active. They are certainly formidable foes for any fresh European troops to encounter, and I think the Spaniards at first underestimated their power, and every native seems seized with a deadly hatred towards the Spaniards. The Spanish policy seems to be to await the arrival from Spain of overwhelming reinforcements before undertaking any aggressive movements, which on a large scale are not yet possible. Last week the transport *Leo Thirteenth* brought 1,985 Cazadores (light infantry). All the Spaniards are armed with the new Mauser repeating rifle, but otherwise they do not seem very well supplied.

Governor-General Blanco in an interview with me stated that 25,000 troops more are coming out at once, which is a sufficient indication of the extent of the rebellion, which is supported by at least 100,000 active insurgents, a third or a half of whom are armed with rifles, which they use behind solid earthworks with deadly effect. Many have only improvised and barbarous weapons. The leaders are nearly all Chinese mestizos, as is shown by their photographs, some of which I have secured. They display undoubted skill in organization and the erection of earthworks, while the natives fight well, though the Spanish have made many gallant attempts to dislodge them. Until the arrival of reinforcements no general movement or decisive attack on Cavite is possible.

Governor-General Blanco leaves at the end of the month (on the 20th inst. in *Leo Thirteenth*, Spanish mail steamer), to the great regret of the people. The natives trusted him; the Spaniards admired him, while all the foreigners respected his honest record. The Church here, however, rightly regards his removal as a distinct gain. His

successor, the Marquis-General Polaviejo, is more of a typical soldier, of active and energetic temperament. Yesterday an entire native column deserted at Bulacan, taking their equipments. Since then 2,000 Spanish troops have been sent up there. The Spaniards hold the railway station, but the rebels hold the convent and church a few hundred yards off!

On Sunday 170 prisoners escaped from Cavite, but nearly all were shot down or retaken. They surprised the solitary sentinel at meal time and seized a lot of rifles belonging to the guard, but they had to abandon most of them in the hot pursuit that followed.

The village of Pasig, 7 miles distant, was captured by rebels on Sunday week, but was retaken yesterday. A Spanish column of 2,000 infantry with two guns was despatched to San Jose, in the province of Bulacan, with the object of dislodging the rebels, numbering 800.

Both General Blanco and the Marquis Polaviejo wish the *China Gazette* to be correctly informed as to the progress of the operations, which have now assumed formidable dimensions; but the Spanish do their utmost to hinder the dissemination of all information except it is highly favourable to them or of no importance.

In my opinion the rebellion is rather social than political in its objects, and is largely directed against the friars who have over-educated the people, filling them with new aspirations, which the example of the recent Japanese successes has stimulated. The Philipinos wish to throw off the yoke of the Europeans. The news of the death of Maceo was received with great elation by the Spaniards.

We have now six foreign men-of-war in port. The British cruiser *Daphne* is moored right up the river, opposite the Magallanes Monument, where she can protect the immense British interests centred around the wharves; the *Pique* and *Pigmy* outside; the French have the gunboat *Isly* further out, the Germans the *Arcona*; and now the Japanese have the famous *Yoshino*. There are great fears of a rising in Manila itself and the Spaniards believe the rebels have many thousands of arms hidden away.

Readers in China cannot estimate fully the extent of the movement or the bitterness of feeling on the part of all natives and mestizos against the Spanish rule. It will take Spain all her resources to restore the island of Luzon to its normal state. At present she only holds Manila and Cavite; every place is either in open rebellion or ready to rise.—H. O'SHEA in *China Gazette*.

PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held at the office of the Company, 9, Praya Central, on the 31st December, at noon. Mr. D. Gillies presided and there were also present—Messrs. W. R. Loxley, J. H. Lewis, C. A. Tomes (Directors), J. B. Duncan (Secretary), G. Murray Bain, H. Wicking, Captain Tillett, W. E. Clement, E. Georg, G. C. Cox, F. H. Hohnke, D. W. Craddock, C. S. Sharp, E. W. Terrey, M. B. Polishwalla, S. B. Bhabha, A. H. Mahomed, Hart Buck, G. C. Anderson, J. R. Michael, and O. Vonder Heyde.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission we will follow the usual course on such occasions and take the report as read, seeing that it has been in your hands for some time. Our efforts during the past year have not quite met with the successful results we hoped for, neither have the deposits found in the workings proved so valuable as we from time to time anticipated; still we have made steady progress with the development of the mine. A large amount of underground work has been carried out and some important discoveries made of both new reefs and of large schutes of ore, which, although of low grade at some points, are yet payable at others, and the indications are all in favour of the value of the ore improving as we continue to open up, in which case we shall shortly have large reserves of ore in sight. Your directors have given

instructions to the manager at Punjom to sink the August shaft 100 feet deeper, making it 300 feet from the surface, where the country rock is expected to be more settled; the lode preserving a more definite line of strike, carrying auriferous quartz in greater continuity and yielding a larger percentage of gold. This work has been taken in hand and we hope to finish it in about six months at a cost of probably \$8,000, and you will be pleased to know that this undertaking will not interfere with the output, as the supply of ore for the mill will be worked through the new shaft. Last month information was received from the mine that a new reef had been met with in new ground, that the lay of the reef was north and south, the width fully four feet and showing free gold in payable quantities. This point, however, has not improved as we expected it would from the favourable indications met with; but as the formation is of a very promising nature we still hope to find a valuable lode of ore in this direction. The total drive for the year is 6,003 feet and the cost \$20,155, or an average of \$3.35 per foot, which rate will be found to compare favourably with other works of the kind carried out under similar conditions. The mill has been run continuously, with the exception of the time required for each clean up, and while the old mill was under repair in the early part of the year. Both sets of stamps are now in good order and working satisfactorily. During the year 12,469 tons of ore passed through the mill, yielding 5,609.4 ounces of melted gold, making an average of nearly half an ounce to the ton. The amount of our earnings, you will note, is far in excess of that obtained in any former period, and if this improvement goes on during the current year, I trust advantage will be taken of our prosperity and every effort made to introduce large improvements and a more complete and economical plant at the Jalis mine. Some time ago a small furnace was put up at the mine by Mr. Blamey to treat the concentrates by a process of calcination, because we had not hitherto been able to successfully treat them with cyanide; owing to exposure to the air producing the formation of iron salts, which have the effect of coating the tailings with a sulphide impenetrable to the cyanide solvent. The action of the furnace has been very satisfactory in recovering about 70 per cent. of the bullion, thus adding every month to our earnings about 80 ounces of smelted gold; but as a valuable percentage is still contained in the residue, your Directors have reason to believe that there would be a greater economy in treating the concentrates by a cyanide-agitator plant specially adapted to the purpose, by which we shall be able to dispense with calcining and obtain a larger percentage of the precious metal at less expense. We estimate the cost of such a plant, capable of operating 50 tons a month, at £300, and have placed ourselves in communication with the Cassel Company with a view to obtaining their advice in the matter and an estimate for the vat and machinery. The cyanide process has now been steadily at work since the beginning of April, with the exception of a stoppage of four weeks during the month of July for want of cyanide, the supply of which had run short owing to delay in sending out the indents from London. Up to the 30th September the quantity of tailings bleached in the vats was 3,260 tons, yielding 1,297 ounces of bullion of an estimated value of \$23,172. The percentage of gold realized from the cyanide process is less than we were led to expect, having regard to the results of the assays and experiments made in Glasgow, which were given at 85 per cent., but so far we have only recovered an average of 55 per cent. at a cost of nearly \$4 a ton, giving a profit of about \$9,732 on the seven months' working. The cause of the low return from the process and the heavy consumption of cyanide lies probably in the large quantity of weathered tailings (the accumulation of years) which had got mixed with the fresh, thereby producing a large amount of acidity, which renders the mixed tailings so difficult to treat. Every effort has been made to keep the new and old tailings separate, but to economise labour in handling they have been dumped in the place most convenient for passing on to the

cyanide vats, and as this space is contracted and limited in area, it is practically impossible to keep them apart. However, as a portion of the old tailings is being used up every month, we are in hopes that in the course of three years all the old will have disappeared, leaving only the new for treatment. After the failure of Mr. White to work the cyanide plant, this gentleman was discharged, and, on the recommendation of the Cassel Company, we engaged early in January Mr. Wilson, who had had large practical experience in working the process in New Zealand. On arrival at Punjom he carried out a series of laboratory experiments on both new and weathered tailings and on the concentrates which justified him in putting the whole plant in operation on the 31st March last, with results which are now well known to shareholders. Mr. Wilson's agreement was for six months only, and we were anxious that he should remain for another term on increased remuneration, but this he declined, though he eventually consented to continue for three months longer. Since his departure the cyanide plant has been run by Mr. Quin, the assayer at the mine, until he fell so seriously ill as to necessitate his removal from Jalis for the purpose of obtaining skilled professional treatment, and it was with very great regret that we subsequently learned of his death, which occurred on the 2nd instant at Kuala Pahang while on his way to Singapore. The operations are now being carried on by Mr. Jolly, with the aid of the manager, until such time as we have procured the services of another competent cyanider. A water wheel of sufficient power to drive all the stamps has been put up which will effect a large economy in firewood, as we hope to get sufficient water from the dam to drive the wheel during a period of about eight months in the year. In the event of this being found to work satisfactorily, the directors recommend the construction of a new dam made of lime concrete, and carried up 10 feet higher, so as to impound enough water to keep the wheel going throughout the year. An increase in the number of stamps has for a long time been under consideration, as the Board feel satisfied that the output of ore might easily be augmented to over 2,000 tons a month with but little increase to mining account, all other expenditure remaining practically the same. Such addition of, say, 20 head of stamps would double the quantity of gold won, and it is only the uncertainty that still exists to some extent regarding the magnitude of our reserves of payable ore which prevents the scheme from being adopted at once. Considerable and well-directed exploratory work has already been done at both Tang-kong and Gubau, where quartz associated with the same slate rocks as at Jalis crops out in great bold masses on the hill-sides, ridges, and valleys in an almost continuous course between the three places, and although the results so far have proved somewhat disappointing, yet we have the authority of our manager, Mr. Blamey, for stating that the appearance of the outcrop at Gubau and the amount of free gold found there during the short period in which a few men were employed in opening out the ground are such as to warrant more extensive explorations and to encourage the hope of finding rich auriferous ground at greater depth. Extensive open-cast excavations have been worked by Chinese on various parts of the outcrop, and large holes in the valleys mark the sites of mines which have been worked by them at a comparatively but recent date. The Company having now attained the position of a dividend-paying concern, with every prospect of good returns in the future, the Board are of opinion the time has arrived for proving the value of our property at Gubau. Instructions have therefore been given to sink a shaft on what is deemed the site most suitable for the purpose, and that it be carried down to such depth as the good fortune met with shall determine. Then should the explorations prove successful, immediate steps will be taken to dispose of some part of our concession. This work is well in hand, the site for the camp having been cleared, workmen's quarters and storehouses put up, and good roads connecting with the Jalis mine and river made. The necessary pumping arrangements and boiler are being erected and we expect to learn by

the next letter from Punjom that a contract has been settled for the sinking of the shaft. There is another matter to which your directors are desirous of calling your attention, and that is the course which the Company will have to take at an early date to secure a legal title to the property. At present we hold the concession on a prospecting lease which will expire in March, 1898, and probably you are aware that the State mining regulations of Pahang impose a number of onerous and arbitrary conditions which are not calculated to encourage European mining enterprise. In consequence of these regulations we are likely to suffer a large curtailment of the original Punjom concession, and we would therefore recommend that the necessary steps be taken to carefully select such portions of the best mining land in our concession, running north and south from Jalis, and following the lay of the country rock; such area to be as extensive as we can possibly obtain from the Government of Pahang. Referring to the two telegrams recently received from Mr. Blamey, it is satisfactory to know that the information sent is most reassuring, for, with the mill again at work, we may safely infer that the flood has done no serious damage to our property. Our best thanks are due to the manager and European staff for the skilful and efficient manner in which the mining and milling operations have been conducted, notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered, and I feel sure you will all join in the hope that their arduous efforts and unceasing energy will be crowned with success during the course of the coming year. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I will be glad to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Captain TILLET—There is one question I should like to ask, and that is, seeing the immense expense we have been put to and the great loss of time caused by the Cassel Company, whether you think they are entitled to the royalty of \$1,787. As a matter of fact, they have practically made more out of the business during the past year than the Company.

The CHAIRMAN—The matter of the royalty is a question of agreement between the Cassel Company and ourselves, and I very much fear that we shall have to pay the amount. With regard to making any claim on the Cassel Company, for my part I really do not see that they are responsible for the chemist that was sent out and who after trial proved incapable of working the cyanide process. He was a very good chemist, had passed satisfactory examination at a college in Glasgow, and had made successful laboratory experiments in Cassel's works at Glasgow, and they fully expected that on reaching Punjom he would be able to carry on the cyanide process successfully. However, although he was a good chemist he was deficient in knowledge and experience of the cyanide process, and I very much fear that the Punjom Company will have to suffer that loss.

Captain TILLET—You can hardly consider that the Cassel Company have carried out their part of the contract.

The CHAIRMAN—The Cassel Company were asked by the Punjom Company to send out a chemist, or rather, I think, the arrangement was made between Mr. Orange and the Cassel Company in Glasgow. The Company were asked to send out a chemist to work the cyanide. They sent out a young man who bore a good character as a chemist, but he was certainly a failure at the mine. Whether the Cassel Company are responsible or not is a question; for my part I think they are not responsible, as they sent out a man who they had every reason to believe was capable.

Mr. BAIN—Has a claim been made against the Cassel Company, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN—No claim has been made. What would you make a claim for?

Mr. BAIN—Failing to carry out the contract.

The CHAIRMAN—Would you claim for the cyanide not being a success, or the expenses in respect of wages, or the passage money out and the passage money home?

Captain TILLET—That is a matter for the directors to consider.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not see how we can reasonably make a claim. If any one in Hongkong was asked to send a good clerk to Shanghai and he sent the best man he could

find and on arriving in Shanghai it was found the clerk was incompetent, do you think the Shanghai people could fall back on the party in Hongkong?

Captain TILLET—The fact still remains, if you reduce the matter to pounds, shillings, and pence, and allow a reasonable amount for depreciation, that we get about £170 and the Cassel Company receive £190 odd.

Mr. LEWIS—You forget the preliminary expenses in starting the plant. At any rate if we have a claim against the Cassel Company discussing it in public will only prejudice it.

The CHAIRMAN—The amount due to the Cassel Company is \$1,787 for eight months' working. The profit made by the cyanide—

Captain TILLET—You really have only five months' working.

The CHAIRMAN—Is \$9,732. Yes, there is only six months' working. I should like to say that this is in a great measure experimental. We have had considerable trouble, as I have already stated, in treating the tailings. A larger amount of cyanide has been used than we were prepared for and the percentage of gold found was not so large as we expected. This I believe to be entirely due to the weathered tailings. When they get mixed with the new tailings they impart some kind of sulphide of iron to the new tailings and this coats them round with a substance which the cyanide cannot penetrate until they have been washed and put through the mill again. We put a certain portion through the mill with the other quartz and we hope to treat a very considerable portion of the old tailings very successfully, although no doubt the results will not be so good as if the tailings were all new. We think the better way is to go on using part of the old tailings with the new until they can all be cleared away; then we shall go on using the new tailings and get the 80 per cent. as promised instead of 55 per cent. as we are getting now.

Mr. GEORG—I see the profit on the cyanide working is \$9,732. I suppose from that has to be deducted the salary of the chemist.

The CHAIRMAN—No, that is the net profit.

Mr. GEORG—What is the profit from calcining? You lump the whole thing down to the gold account—\$226,738.

The CHAIRMAN—The calcining process is giving us from 70 to 80 ounces of gold per month. That is included in the reports from May.

Mr. GEORG—Would it not be better in future reports to state that more clearly?

The CHAIRMAN—To give the results from the mill separate from the calcining?

Mr. GEORG—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—We hope in a year hence, and probably less, that we shall not be using the calcine process, but that we shall be doing the whole by the aid of the cyanide. If we can work with a small vat—the process is the same as we are already using, only the small vat would have an agitator to agitate the liquor which is in the vat and keep it in motion, so that the cyanide may come in contact with the particles of slime and gold. We think that process will be very much cheaper. I do not know that the differences will be very much in the cost of treatment, but we shall get a larger percentage of gold out of the concentrates. At present there remains about 30 per cent. of gold in the residue, and if we can get 20 per cent. of that gold out of the residue by the cyanide process it will be a considerable gain.

Mr. GEORG—I mean, would it not be advisable to put it apart in the gold account—to give the gold account for ordinary milling and the gold account for cyanide? There are a lot of people on the coast who do not see the newspapers and who simply have to go by what the report says.

The CHAIRMAN—Your suggestion, Mr. Georg, will be carried out in the next report.

Mr. GEORG—There is another thing. I see there are 650 shares which have not yet been allotted. Is this not a proper time to sell them?

The CHAIRMAN—The directors think it will be well to hold on to those shares for a little while. We hope a favourable opportunity will shortly occur for disposing of those shares. We have been expecting to hear of favourable

developments from the mine by almost every mill and we think the shares will be of greater value.

Captain TILLET—I notice that we have treated 227 tons by the calcine process and they have yielded 651 ounces of gold. Is that supposed to be fine gold, may I ask?

The CHAIRMAN—The gold obtained by calcination averages £3 13s. per ounce in value, whereas that won by the cyanide process is worth only 21 18s. on the average.

Captain TILLET—What I was going to say is that 227 tons have yielded 651 ounces of gold, while the cyanide process only gives us 609 ounces, so it looks on the face of it as if calcining was the cheaper process.

The CHAIRMAN—You could only treat concentrates by that process, because concentrates contain 2½ to 3 ounces per ton, whereas tailings contain only 9 to 10 dwt., so that their treatment by calcination would be very costly and yield no return. If there are no more questions I will now move the adoption of the report and the statement of accounts.

Mr. BAIN—Gentlemen, I have great pleasure, after the exceedingly satisfactory report—one point about which I noted was the cautious manner in which it was handled—after the satisfactory report I have very great pleasure in seconding the proposition of the Chairman that the report and the accounts be passed. I think we may all congratulate ourselves that we have at last come to the basis of payment, for which the shareholders have waited such a long time.

Carried.

Captain TILLET—I have very much pleasure in proposing that the retiring directors, Mr. D. Gillies and Mr. W. R. Loxley, be re-elected as directors.

Mr. GEORG—I have much pleasure in seconding that proposal.

Carried.

Mr. HOHNKE—I have much pleasure in proposing that the appointment of Mr. C. A. Toomes as director be confirmed.

Mr. HART BUCK seconded.

Carried.

Mr. WICKING proposed the re-election of Messrs. Fullarton Henderson and W. H. Gaskell as auditors.

Mr. CLEMENT seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry, gentlemen, that the dividend warrants will not be ready so early as we would have liked. There has been a very large amount of work in making the necessary transfers and the staff of the Company have not been able to finish that work yet. However, immediately the register has been closed and the transfers fully entered up the warrants will be issued and they will be ready for the shareholders, we hope, in the early part of the week. Gentlemen, I take this opportunity of thinking Mr. Murray Bain for the kind remarks he has made in connection with the Punjom Company. I am sure we all concur in what he has said. We are all pleased that the Company is making some progress and that the stage has now arrived when we are able to pay a dividend. I have to thank you all, gentlemen, for your attendance here to-day, and I hope that at our next meeting we shall have an even more satisfactory report to present. (Applause.)

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the registered offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on the 30th December, at noon, for the purpose of confirming the special resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Company held on the 14th December, 1896. Mr. Hart Buck presided and there were also present Messrs. C. Ewins, H. Humphreys, W. H. Potts, J. S. Hagen, S. Rustonjee, J. A. Jupp, W. E. Clement, E. Georg, C. Georg, W. D. Sutton, Lam Yan, and E. S. Kelly.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this meeting has been called to confirm the resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on the 14th inst. I will now move that the first resolution, which is as follows, be confirmed:—

1.—That the Capital of the Company be reduced from \$150,000 divided into 50,000 shares of \$3.00 each to \$50,000 divided into 50,000 shares of \$1.00 each and that such reduction be effected by cancelling Capital which has been lost or is unrepresented by available assets to the extent of \$2.00 upon each of the 50,000 shares which have been issued and by reducing the nominal amount of all the shares in the Company's Capital from \$3.00 to \$1.00 per share. Mr. Rustonjee seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I now propose that the second resolution be confirmed:—

2.—That the Capital of the Company after having been reduced to \$50,000 be increased to \$125,000 by the creation of 75,000 new shares of \$1.00 each to be called "Preference Shares" to which there shall be attached the special rights and privileges following that is to say:—

(i.) The holders of such preference shares shall be entitled to receive out of the profits of the Company as a first charge a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the Capital paid up on such shares respectively.

(ii.) Whenever the profits of the Company in respect of any year shall be more than sufficient to pay the preferential dividend aforesaid to the close of such year and also a dividend for such year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on \$50,000, the Capital of the ordinary shares, the holders of the preference shares shall be entitled to participate in the surplus *pari passu* with the holders of the other shares.

(iii.) The Capital paid up on the preference shares shall not be liable to cancellation or reduction in respect of loss or depreciation.

(iv.) In the event of the winding up of the Company the holders of the preference shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets applied, first in paying off the Capital paid up on the preference shares held by them respectively, secondly, in paying off the arrears (if any) of the preferential dividend aforesaid to the commencement of the winding up, and thereafter to participate ratably with the holders of other shares in the residue (if any) of such surplus assets which shall remain after paying off the Capital paid up on such other shares.

Mr. KELLY seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen.

THE SHANGHAI ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, AND DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The first general meeting of this Company was held on the 30th December at the offices of Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., Shanghai. Mr. Douglas Jones (Chairman) presided, and there were present, Count Butler, Messrs. O. Menser, and O. Middleton (Directors), R. J. Macgowan (Secretary), J. Blechynden, Kuang Chu-ming, C. Overbeck, J. M. Young, Gipperich, H. Hiller, J. Reynolds, J. Valentine, and W. A. C. Platt (Legal Adviser), representing in all 701 shares.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said—As stated in the advertisement you have just heard the Secretary read, this meeting is more or less a purely formal one, and is held to comply with the Ordinances under which the company was registered. I am glad, however, that it affords me an opportunity of giving you a general sketch of the position of your company. Land.—We have acquired land on the Pootung side, of some 117 now odd, with a river frontage of 2,000 feet. It is immediately adjoining the wharf known as Messrs. Meyer, Lemke & Co.'s, and to the east of it. We have acquired this piece of land, and at a price which is very considerably under its present market value. The machinery required for pile-driving, bunding, etc., has been made at our own engine works, and we are now only awaiting the permission of the harbour authorities, which, no doubt, will shortly come, in order to proceed with our dock and machinery works with all possible despatch, and I may add that all the

timber that we require has been contracted for on very reasonable terms. Calls.—The 50,000 per share so far called up has all been duly paid. Our next call, the fourth instalment so called, is for the 1st of February, but your Directors, bearing in mind the Chinese New Year holidays and the yearly settlement prevailing at the time, have thought it well to extend the date of payment of the call until the 1st of March next. Your Directors have under the authority given them by the articles of association, appointed Mr. Rufus Eastlack and Mr. Wilmer Harris as the first auditors of the company, and I may state that it will rest with the shareholders at our next meeting in June to appoint Directors and also auditors for the ensuing year. At our next meeting we shall lay before you the accounts to the 30th of April, and I then hope to be in a position to report satisfactory progress having been made, and to give you detailed information of the company's working. I do not know that anything more can be usefully said at this meeting, but I shall be happy to answer any questions that any gentleman may have to ask. (After a pause.) As there appear to be no questions I thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance. That concludes the business of the meeting.

RAUB AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held at Brisbane, on the 4th December. The Hon. R. Philp, M.L.A., presided, and 260 shareholders were present, either personally or by proxy. The meeting had been called in pursuance of a resolution passed at the annual general meeting of the company, held on the 22nd May last, for the purpose of eliciting an expression of opinion from shareholders as to the nature of the increased crushing plant it was contemplated purchasing, there being a difference of opinion between the Singapore board and the Brisbane board.

The Chairman made the following statement:—You will remember that at the annual general meeting of the company, held on the 22nd May last, a discussion took place as to an increased crushing plant for the mine, and that, whereas the Singapore board recommended an immediate increase of 100 stampers, worked by electricity, the Brisbane board wished to add twenty stampers only, with steam for motive power. The Brisbane board took exception to the larger scheme because it committed at once and in one venture the whole of the company's uncalled capital, "on an estimate," while evidence was insufficient to prove that, even if this estimate were not ultimately exceeded, the 100 stampers could be kept going. To admit of the question being properly ventilated, it was resolved to call an extraordinary general meeting for the 4th December, and circulars were issued to all shareholders, explaining the case and inviting expressions of opinion. Since the 22nd May, however, considerable correspondence has passed between the two boards, and the Singapore directors now advise that action be deferred until the Government of the Straits Settlements have finished a road, under construction into Pahang, which road runs close to Raub, and which should be available about the middle of next year. The new route will effect a great saving in cost of carriage, the present transport service to Raub, via Pekan, being both costly and tedious. Mr. Bibby very pertinently points this out as reason for deferring the shipment of heavy machinery to Raub. The Singapore board have, however, suggested a modified scheme of forty stampers, with electricity as a motive power, and issued a circular embodying their views, as follows:—

"The Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, Singapore, 18th September, 1896.—Sir.—In handing you the accompanying form of proxy and report from the Brisbane board of directors, I am instructed by the local committee to advise you that they have (with Mr. Bibby's concurrence), in order as far as possible to meet the views of the Brisbane board, modified the proposal originally set forward by them, and

erection of eighty additional stampers with electricity as motive power, and they have intimated that they are willing, as a beginning, that only forty additional stampers with electricity as motive power be erected at the mines. I am glad to be able to further advise you that letters and telegrams received from Brisbane inform me that the Brisbane board are disposed to accept this modified proposal. This inclination to adopt the views of the local committee is, however, accompanied by the wish again repeated that twenty stampers with steam power be added to the present plant. To this the local committee and Mr. Bibby strongly object, on the ground that any additions by way of steam power will in the end prove costly and unsatisfactory, and really only temporary. It will, therefore, be necessary, if your views coincide with those of the local committee and Mr. Bibby, for you, in sending forward your proxy to be used at the meeting to be held at Brisbane on 4th December, to endorse thereon—"In favour of the modified proposal of the Singapore committee to erect forty additional stampers with electricity as motive power, and not to erect the twenty additional stampers with steam power." The local committee wish to point out that their proposal was not to forthwith call up all the unpaid capital of the company, but that the directors should get authority to make calls (to the extent, if necessary, of the balance of the unpaid capital), as might from time to time be required, in terms of the articles of association. I may mention that by the terms on which the Government of Pahang offer the company water rights on the Sempan River for the purpose of generating electricity the company are required to give an undertaking that the works in connection therewith are commenced not later than June, 1898, and completed by June, 1900.—C. P. Derrick, Local Secretary, Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited.

The Brisbane board willingly concede the forty-head battery, but still hesitate as to electricity. It is the unknown risks connected with it they dread. Could they be assured that it will accomplish all that is claimed for it, and were it possible to contract for a plant on the condition of a satisfactory "working run" before payment is made, further objection might be withdrawn. They would still, however, prefer to use steam. Of course, a vast number of letters has been received by the board on the subject, and as illustrative of the dangers attending electricity, I will quote from one of them. After dealing pretty exhaustively with the subject, the writer says:—

"With regard to the electric power, I am afraid that the Singapore board are too sanguine. The expense of it is appalling. The fluming—well, that is not much, but 2,500 ft. of steel piping of that large diameter, and the conducting of the power across the hills, &c., is very serious. I would quote to you, as an instance, the London Electric Supply Corporation, with a capital of between one and two millions, of which Lord Crawford was chairman at one time and Ferranti was the engineer. No one can deny the talent of Ferranti as an electrical engineer, and yet that company has failed, and is in the hands of a receiver. What I do know is that working there at those high tensions, the current sometimes took a leap, and the next moment a dynamo, which had cost some thousands of pounds, was fused and useless. Believe me, there are risks which are unforeseeable; and where should we be at Raub, out of touch more or less with the electrical world, and what would be the value of our plant if it were not a success? Why, simply nil."

Similar examples might be multiplied. Mr. J. Ewan Davidson writes from Mackay on the 18th ultimo, as follows:—

"Branscombe, Mackay, Queensland, 18th November, 1896.

"G. S. Murphy, Esq. Dear sir,—I find I shall not be able to be present at the Raub shareholders' meeting of 4th December, but you hold my proxy, also as many as I could procure through my friends here and in England. I enclose you press copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Anderson, of Singapore, after reading the minutes of their meeting of 27th May, 1896, sent on to me by you. I also send a leading article from a Straits newspaper of

15th July, 1896, endorsing the action of the Brisbane directorate. I further hear that the shares are selling in Singapore at 13s. each, and the brokers in Mackay are in constant receipt of wires from people trying to purchase shares under the market price. Only yesterday I heard of 9s. being offered, so I trust at the meeting of 4th December some authoritative statement as to the present value will be given in the report, so that shareholders may be on their guard against parting with shares below their value.—Yours faithfully. (Signed) J. EWEN DAVIDSON."

I will here remark, with respect to price of shares, that the last quotation from the East was 19s. per share, with every likelihood of higher prices obtaining. To resume, the opinions held by the shareholders generally have undergone considerable modification since May. Many of the proxies sent forward for last meeting, and in favour of the original proposal of the Singapore board, have been cancelled by proxies in favour of the minor scheme. The voting is as follows:—By proxy there are present 258 shareholders, holding 126,147 shares, divided as follows:—In favour of the Singapore Board's original scheme, 7,546 votes; in favour of the Singapore Board's modified scheme, 3,193 votes; in favour of the Brisbane Board's scheme 9,166 votes. I, of course, cannot tell how supporters of the original scheme might vote when finding themselves in a minority; possibly they might add their voices to those in favour of the modified scheme, perhaps not. Considering that out of the 68,532 shares voting for the Singapore original scheme, 40,392 shares are fully paid, while the votes of members now personally present have to be added to the Brisbane total, the Brisbane directorate may claim to have a substantial majority. Still, as the issues between the two boards have been so narrowed, I do not think it would be wise to pass any binding resolution, and suggest, gentlemen, that matters be left in the hands of the directors.

In reply to questions, the Chairman stated that the Singapore Board was somewhat inclined to press electricity, but he had every reason to believe the difference of opinion would soon be adjusted—it was simply a matter of compromise.

On the motion of Mr. Forsyth, seconded by Mr. Scott, it was resolved to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the directors.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE PERAK SUGAR CULTIVATION CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of this company was held on the 30th December at the Shanghai Club. Mr. W. D. Little presided, and there were present, Messrs. J. H. McMichael (Director), C. J. Dudgeon (Secretary), W. H. Drummond, C. Thorne, A. Cushny, jun., and C. Buchanan, representing in all 552 shares.

The Chairman said—I have to apologise for the absence of our Chairman, Mr. Drummond. This meeting, as you are aware, is mainly of a formal character. The season has been extended to 31st inst., therefore we cannot now come before you with accounts. The accounts are not expected until February, thus a resolution postponing this meeting to the 15th of March next is to be put before you. When last I had the pleasure of addressing you, the prospects of the company were exceedingly favourable. We had a large crop, which we anticipated realising at good prices. Well, gentlemen, the canes are there, the prices are there, but owing to troubles in the working of the factory, the sugar is not there, at least not in the quantity we expected, and that is the whole trouble. It was not until August that the Directors had any reason to doubt the Manager's assurances, as to the getting off of the crop in the time named; the answers returned to the representations then made were apparently satisfactory, but as time advanced suspicions of the Manager's statements began to re-assert themselves; the consequence was an enquiry, which produced what have turned out to be exaggerated reports of the condition of affairs, and these reports being communicated by wire have resulted in a heavy fall in value of our shares. That the trouble has been

serious I do not deny, but I trust that we have tided over it successfully. You have in your hands the report of our Secretary, showing the cause of our troubles, the effect on our position, and the means we have taken to overcome our difficulties. I may perhaps add a word with regard to the company's new manager, Mr. Boyd. Mr. Boyd has been our assistant manager for some years and has a Demerara experience both in field and factory work. The directors have every confidence in placing the management of the company in his hands. I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may desire to put. If such deal with matters of estate management, I will, with your permission, ask Mr. Dudgeon to reply.

Mr. C. Thorne said he saw that the loss sustained by the company was estimated at \$70,000 to \$80,000, "which more than completely wipes out the expected profit of the season," and he asked if the Directors had anticipated having a profit of \$70,000.

The Chairman replied that they had.

Mr. Thorne enquired at what rate the overdraft of \$20,000 from the bank had been arranged.

Mr. Dudgeon said on the ordinary terms of bank interest.

The Chairman then proposed that this meeting be adjourned until Monday, the 15th of March, 1897.

Mr. Cushny seconded, and the resolution was agreed.

Mr. Thorne said he thought they should express their feelings towards their Secretary for the prompt and very capable manner in which he appeared to have carried through the business. They were led to hope that their loss would not be as great as anticipated, and the result might be eventually rather favourable. He therefore proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Dudgeon for the manner in which he had managed the business.

Mr. Cushny seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Mr. Dudgeon said he was exceedingly obliged to Mr. Thorne for the kind way in which he had spoken, but, seeing the interest he (Mr. Dudgeon) held and represented in connection with it, he could not have done less than he had, to at once proceed to the scene and try to straighten out matters for the benefit of all concerned. He hoped and thought he had arranged matters in a more or less satisfactory way, and he hoped that future meetings of the company would have more reason to give him a vote of thanks than the present.

The proceedings then terminated.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE CUP FOR DECEMBER.

Only ten members entered for this competition, and of this four sent in returns.

Mr. C. W. May	96	12	84*
Mr. G. Stewart	88	4	84*
Mr. H. Pinckney	99	14	85
Mr. P. de C. Morris	104	13	91

* divide the Pool.

TAIKOO ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The sixth annual Taikoo athletic meeting took place on New Year's Day at Quarry Bay. There was a very large attendance of spectators and, as usual, special arrangements were made for their comfort. A grand stand was erected and it was taken advantage of to the utmost, refreshments were most liberally provided by the Taikoo Club, and the sport was excellent in every respect. Nor were the children overlooked, and it was a great pleasure to see them enjoying themselves on the swings and seesaws and munching delicious cakes at intervals. The band of the Hongkong Regiment played many welcome selections during the afternoon. At the conclusion of the last race Mrs. Poate distributed the prizes and cheers were then given for the President and Mr. and Mrs. Poate. The Committee are to be heartily congratulated upon the result of their efforts and it is to be hoped that future meetings will be as successful as this one. The following is a list of the officials:—

President, Mr. Herbert Smith. Committee, Messrs. J. Loohead, R. Dickson, W. Hardwick, R. Park, D. Currie, T. Shand, A.

Blake, and T. Grimshaw. Judge: Mr. T. Shand. Handicappers: Messrs. C. Blake and T. Grimshaw. Clerk of the Course: Mr. R. Dickson. Club Secretary: Mr. W. Sparkes. Sports Secretary: Mr. Blake.

Results:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined). Prize presented by Mr. Tai Woo Loong.
W. Armstrong (scratch) ... 1
J. Danby (5 yards) ... 2
W. Sparkes (8 yards) ... 3
Time—10½ secs. Only four entered, and the race was run off in one heat.

PUTTING THE SHOT (confined). Prize presented by John Blake, Esq.

R. Aitken ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2

The winner's distance was 33 feet 4 in., and Armstrong's throw was 32 feet 6½ in.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap). Open. First prize presented by Mr. Goh; second prize, Out-Door Staff, Taikoo Sugar Refinery.

W. Armstrong (8 yards) ... 1
J. D. Danby (20 yards) ... 2

Time—First, 56 secs; second, 57 secs.

THREE MILE BICYCLE RACE HANDICAP (open). First prize presented by China Sugar Refinery Staff; second prize presented by Mr. Chan A Tong.

A. McKirdy (scratch) ... 1
C. G. Klinck (scratch) ... 2

Da Silva Netto (scratch), J. Dickie (205 yards), D. Currie (205 yards), also competed. The race between the placed men was a capital one, but McKirdy went away finely towards the finish and won easily. Da Silva Netto ran over a dog and was thrown on to the track; he escaped with a scratched knee. Time—10 mins. 22 secs.

THROWING THE HAMMER (confined). Prize presented by G. Knoblock, Esq.

R. Perrie ... 1
J. Coils ... 2

Distance—First, 66 feet 6 in.; second, 65 feet 2 in.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined). First prize presented by H. Carmichael, Esq.; second prize by Taikoo Club.

W. Sparkes (18 yards) ... 1
W. Armstrong (scratch) ... 2
J. D. Danby (9 yards) ... 3

Time—25½ secs.

ONE MILE BICYCLE RACE HANDICAP (confined). Prize presented by J. Lockheed, Esq.

A. McKirdy (scratch) ... 1
J. Dickie (75 yards) ... 2
R. Stuart (100 yards) ... 3

Time—3 min. 24 secs.

VETERANS' RACE (confined). Prize presented by Dr. Rennie.

N. McDonald ... 1
F. Eckhoff ... 2

HALF MILE FLA RACE HANDICAP (confined). First and second prizes presented by members V. R. C.

W. Armstrong (20 yards) ... 1
D. Currie (20 yards) ... 2
Armstrong won easily.

HIGH JUMP (confined).—Prize presented by W. Ramsay, Esq.

H. Arthur ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2

Height—First, 4 feet 10½ in.; second, 4 feet 10 in.

OBSTACLE RACE (confined).—First prize presented M. B. K.

A. McKirdy ... 1
H. Arthur ... 2

Half-a-dozen entered and much fun was witnessed, as the competitors had to jump hurdles, carry plates containing eggs a distance, crawl underneath a tarpaulin and through barrels, and then finish carrying the barrel.

VISITORS' RACE (scratch).—Prize presented by Taikoo Club.

A. A. Alves ... 1
—Budge ... 2

2 MILES BICYCLE RACE HANDICAP (open). Prize presented by Kowloon Dock Staff.

A. McKirdy ... 1
C. G. Klinck ... 2

Time, 6 min. 49½ secs.

LONG JUMP (confined).—Prize presented by Indoor Staff, Taikoo Sugar Refinery.

H. Arthur ... 1
E. F. Mackay ... 2
W. Armstrong ... 3

First—16 feet 2½ in.; second—14 feet 2 in.

SACK RACE, 80 yards (confined).—Prize presented by H. Carmichael, Esq.

W. Armstrong ... 1
F. W. White ... 2

HURDLE RACE, 6 Hurdles (confined).—Prize presented by Quong Yick.

H. Arthur (7 yards) ... 1
W. Armstrong (scratch) ... 2

TWO MILES BICYCLE RACE HANDICAP (confined).—Prize presented by M.B.K.

A. McKirdy (scratch) ... 1
R. Stuart (200 yards) ... 2

Time—6 min. 52½ secs.

CONSOLATION RACE.—Open to non-winners of events numbered 5, 6, and 16. Prize presented by Jack A. Young.

Kew ... 1
Wilson ... 2
D. Gow ... 3

CHAMPIONS' CUP (confined).—To be decided on points. Prize presented by President of Taikoo Club.

W. Armstrong.

FOOTBALL.

SCOTLAND V. THE WORLD.

Yesterday afternoon at the Happy Valley a team representing Scotland met a team representing the World under Association rules. Great interest was taken in the event and when, punctually at 4.30, the game was started there was a very large crowd of spectators. The result was that Scotland won by three goals to two. The defeat of the World was anticipated, but it was generally thought that Scotland would, so to speak, waltz round the World and vanquish them with a heavy balance to the good. It turned out, however, that the World gave Scotland plenty of trouble, and managed to emerge from the ordeal very creditably. Indeed the two goals obtained by the defeated team were undoubtedly more skilfully obtained than any of the three obtained by Scotland. The victors placed a strong team in the field, but the World certainly needed much improvement; unfortunately two of the best players could not get away for the contest. As is usually the case with representative football matches the play was not sound and of necessity suffered much through the men not being accustomed to playing with each other and consequently lacking in the knowledge of one another's characteristic points. The game was also one of the quietest we have yet witnessed. It was not until late in the second half, when the World, through Grayson, scored their second goal that any sign of enthusiasm was shown, and then for a time some very spirited play followed, but the enthusiasm died away very quickly and never really rallied again. The first half was for the most part in favour of Scotland and they put on two goals, and five minutes after the re-start they scored their third and last goal. From this point the World showed up better than at any previous time and with the aid of some excellent wing passing Grayson notched a couple of points and speculation was keen as to the probability of a draw being the result. However, no more goals were scored and when the final whistle blew hearty cheers were raised for the victors.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 29th December a party of Hunan soldiers when passing along Sin Sz Street met an old man carrying a picul of firewood. The old man, who was proceeding wearily with his heavy burden, accidentally bumped against one of the soldiers. The soldier flew into a rage and beat the old man and inflicted an injury on his head. Near by the place where this happened there is a station occupied by Canton soldiers, and the men in the station and the kaifong people rushed forward to prevent the Hunan soldiers inflicting further injuries on the old man. The Hunan men thereupon fired on the Canton men, who returned the fire, and one of each party was severely wounded. The wounded Hunan man lay down at the door of one of the shops in Sin Sz Street and a military officer in command of the Hunan detachment, who appeared on the scene with another

hundred men, laid the blame on the people of the shop, arrested one of the shopmen, and took him away. The kaifong people were greatly incensed at this act of injustice and all the shops in Sin Sz Street, Tai San Street, Ho Pun Street, and several other streets have closed their doors and instituted a general strike in the district.

On the 26th December, at 7 p.m., a fire broke out in a druggist's shop in San-tau-lan. Sixteen houses were destroyed.

A clerk of the Magistrate of Mau-ming district passed Che-ha-hu on his way to Canton, when some soldiers came up and robbed him of all the money he had with him. The clerk was obliged to give up the journey and return to Mau-ming. He reported the case to the Magistrate, who sent a weiyuen with some policemen to arrest the soldiers. Two of them were captured and brought back to the yamen. The soldiers then gathered a good number of other soldiers and marched to the yamen to effect the release of the two captives. When they got in, they destroyed all the things in the yamen and set the two captured soldiers free. The weiyuen was also severely wounded by them.

A fire broke out in a leather shop at Wuchow on the 20th December at 6 p.m. The fire was not got under control till 9 p.m., and fifty-three houses were burnt to the ground. A good number of people were rendered homeless, most of whom were poor people. The local Magistrate went to the scene the next morning and distributed relief to the sufferers.

The Government has appointed the 23rd January as the date for closing the seals of all the offices and the 20th February as the date for re-opening them.

About two thousand people in Ta-tong-tung, in San-ling district, have commenced a rebellion. The Magistrate of San-ling district has sent to Canton for soldiers and some days ago five hundred were despatched.

Several days ago six soldiers broke into a house in Ng-fuk Lane and kidnapped four girls. The inmates of the house at once raised the alarm and the policemen gave pursuit. Three of the soldiers were captured, but the other three ran away with the girls. The next morning the four lost girls were discovered in a house inside the city. The three prisoners will be probably discharged, for the inmates of the house are too frightened to give evidence against them.

HONGKONG.

Exceptionally warm weather has ushered in the New Year, one or two of the days this week having been quite oppressive. There have been a few cases of smallpox lately, but happily the disease has as yet been confined to two particular districts and there are no signs of its spreading. The honour of knighthood conferred upon the Chief Justice this week has caused much satisfaction and Sir John Carrington has been the recipient of many congratulations. At the Criminal Sessions Charles McKinley, electrical engineer, was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment for forgery. On Thursday the annual meeting of the Punjom Mining Company was held.

We congratulate the Chief Justice on the honour of knighthood which has been conferred upon him. The intelligence, which came to hand on Saturday, was received with the liveliest satisfaction by the whole community.

At the Police Court on the 31st December Inspectors Reidie and Brett, of the Sanitary Board Department, summoned three householders for failing to report cases of smallpox which had occurred on their premises. Each defendant was fined \$10.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co. Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram giving the result of the December clean-up:—"The mill ran 19 days crushing 900 tons yielding 288 ozs. of smelted gold; twenty-five tons of concentrates calcined yielding 35 ozs. of gold."

In his report on the trade of Chinkiang for 1895, received by the last mail, Mr. P. E. O'Brien-Butler, Acting Consul, says:—"There is a steadily increasing consumption of Hongkong refined sugar. It is principally used in making the finest kinds of confectionery and for mixing with 'Swatow Brown'."

H.M.S. *Porpoise* went into dock at Kowloon on Monday.

There were 2,003 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 168 were Europeans. The meeting of the Legislative Council which was to have been held on Monday (4th January) has been adjourned *sine die*.

The coxswain of the ferry launch which ran down a police pinnace has been committed for trial. The four of the crew who were charged with him were discharged by the Magistrate.

Several matchsheds at Causeway Bay caught fire on 29th December and almost in an instant the whole of them were ablaze, and the unusually large stretch of flames presented a very fine sight. Some firemen were in attendance, but it was of course impossible to save the sheds from total destruction. Happily there was no injury to any person.

On Wednesday Mr. Ho Wing Siu, eldest son of Mr. Ho Wyson, was married to the third daughter of Hon. Wei Ynk. In celebration of the event Mr. Ho Wyson gave a dinner in the evening at the Hung Fa Lan restaurant, 325, Queen's Road Central. The guests were very numerous and included Hon. Ho Kai and several professional men in the colony.

On Saturday afternoon the Hongkong Volunteers, accompanied by the drum and fife band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, had another route march. There was a good attendance of men and the officers on parade were Major Sir John Carrington, Commandant, Captain Chapman, and Lieutenants Macbell, Macdonald, and Maitland. Before starting, Captain Chapman, on behalf of the Corps, cordially congratulated Sir John Carrington upon the honour which Her Majesty the Queen had conferred upon him. Sir John Carrington, in reply, thanked the members of the Corps for this kind expression and said he looked upon the honour as one conferred not only on him personally but on the colony of Hongkong. After this pleasant ceremony the order of march was formed and the men were taken to the polo ground at Causeway Bay, where a very instructive drill was gone through. Refreshments, which were kindly provided by the Commandant, were then taken and the return journey was commenced, headquarters being reached about six p.m. The men then proceeded to the election of a Lieutenant, the vacancy being caused by the promotion of Mr. Chapman to the rank of Captain. Sergeant Wylie and Gunners Melbourne and Prosser were the candidates. Sergeant Wylie, who has been a volunteer over twenty years, was elected, Gunner Melbourne, who holds a commission in Australia, being second in the voting. At the conclusion of the election Sergeant Wylie was shouldered and carried round the Institute and loudly cheered. His appointment has of course to receive the approval of the Commandant and then of the Governor.

MISCELLANEOUS.

According to the Manila Comercio Mr. Donaldson-Sim won \$20,000 in the second prize of the last Manila lottery.

The Foochow Amateur Musical and Dramatic Society performed "Nine Points of the Law" and "A Blighted Being" on the 23rd December.

The Manila Comercio publishes a list of military honours and rewards conferred in connection with the operations against the Philippine rebels. The list occupies no less than nine columns.

The C. N. Company's steamer *Changsha* brought up from Australia to Manila sixty horses and thirty head of cattle and landed them in perfect condition, fine weather having been experienced throughout the voyage. The horses are intended for the use of the Spanish cavalry in the operations against the rebels and were selected by a commission sent to Australia for the purpose.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Shanghai, 31st December.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkitt's Circular).—London quotations to 29th current are: Gold Kilin 8/6 and Blue Elephant 10/3 with a dull market. Raw Silk.—Business is still restricted to the smallest possible lines and the concessions made by holders so far, have

failed to bring in buyers. All White Silks are neglected, but there continues a fairly good demand for Yellow Silk. Arrivals, as per Customs returns 23rd to 29th December, 499 bales White, 2 1/2 piculs Yellow, and 70 piculs Wild Silk. The export of Steam Filatures to date is:—To London 2 bales, to Continent 1,276 bales, and to America 1,227 bales. Waste Silk.—No transactions. Fongees.—A very small business has been done in Shantung 19 in. by 19 yds. and 24 oz. at Tls. 3.35.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—There is no change to report in the condition of this market. Quotations for Formosa are \$44.50 to \$45.00. During the week sales have been 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—The market continues to advance and demand is brisk. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.30 to 7.38	per pol
do. " 2, White...	6.70 to 6.72	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.52 to 4.55	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.35 to 4.38	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.22 to 7.24	"
do. " 2, White...	6.80 to 6.82	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.45 to 4.47	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.30 to 4.33	"
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.04 to 10.06	"
Shekloong "	9.52 to 9.55	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Rohilla*, Hongkong to London 17th December, took:—2 cases Hemp (from Manila), 30 bales Waste Silk, 50 bales Mats, 175 bales Canes, 25 cases Blackwoodware and Curios, 6 cases Silk Piece Goods, 5 cases Chinaware, 1 case Tea, 1 case Cigars and 10 chests Persian Opium; for Gibraltar:—6 cases Porcelainware; for France:—296 cases Silk Piece Goods.

The steamer *Glengyle*, Hongkong to New York 18th December, took:—1,857 rolls Matting, 200 bales Cassia, 200 bags Rice, 10 packages Canes, 20 boxes Bristles, 5 boxes Human Hair, 11 boxes Chinaware, 191 packages Chinese Sundries.

The steamer *Salasia*, Hongkong to France 23rd December, took:—183 bales Raw Silk, 9 cases Silk Piece Goods, 20 cases Essential Oil, 15 cases Chinaware, 12 cases Curios, 125 cases Staranised, 4 cases Sundries, 100 packages Tea, and 10 packages Rattan; for London:—2 cases Silk Piece Goods.

The steamer *Hector*, Hongkong to London 25th December, took:—3,644 boxes Tea (34,858 lbs. Congou, 41,685 lbs. Scented Caper), 20 cases Essential Oil, 50 cases Vermilion, 450 cases Palm leaf fans, 11 cases Blackwoodware, 2 cases Gongs, 160 cases Bristles, 24 cases Cigars, 4 cases Curios, 7 cases Hats, 2,200 cases Preserves, 1,200 cases Preserves, 613 rolls Matting, 33 bales Canes, 11 packages Rattanware, and 7 packages Sundries; for London option Manchester:—245 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—6 cases Curios; for Glasgow:—3 boxes Chinaware, and 2 cases Blackwoodware; for Hamburg:—361 bales Feathers, 5 bales Split rattan, and 16 bales Rattan shavings.

The steamer *Radnorshire*, Hongkong to New York 26th December, took:—10 bales Canes, 468 rolls Matting, and 186 packages Merchandise.

The steamer *Palawan*, Hongkong to Manchester 26th December, took:—125 bales Waste Silk; for London option Manchester:—75 bales Waste Silk; for London:—1,335 boxes Tea (28,085 lbs. Scented Caper), 100 packages Tea, 28 packages Tea, 29 rolls Mats, 100 bales Duck Feathers, 275 bales Canes, 1 case Gongs, 12 cases Blackwoodware, 3 cases Furniture, and 5 cases Preserves.

The American ship *Sathem*, Hongkong to New York 31st December, took:—50 boxes Staranised, 100 bales Cassia-lignea, 100 cases Preserves, 150 cases Fans, 150 packages Rattanware, 594 cases Joss sticks, 1,933 chests Tea, 4,735 rolls Matting, and 23,498 packages Crackers.

The American ship *Wm. H. Smith*, Hongkong to New York 31st December, took:—22 cases Chinaware, 99 bales Strawbraid, 200 cases Saigon Cassia, 399 bales Rattanware, 450 cases Preserves, 500 bales Broken Cassia, 645 cases Fans, 1,650 bales Cassia-lignea, 9,634 rolls Matting, 11,750 packages Crackers, 13,959 chests Tea, and 65 packages Merchandise.

The steamer *Katay*, Hongkong to London 31st December, took:—10 cases Cigars from Manila, 2 cases Sundries from Manila, 110 bales Waste Silk, 1,000 rolls Mats, 482 rolls Matting, 11 cases Silk Piece Goods, 8 cases Curios, 20 cases Pearl Shells, 5 cases Bristles, and 1 case Feathers; for London option Manchester:—100 bales Waste Silk; for France:—144 bales Raw Silk, 35 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 4 cases Personal Effects.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—Bengal.—The market continues steady. Prices are as follows:—New Patna \$687.50; Old Patna \$687.50; New Benares closes at \$670 and Old Benares at \$710.

Malwa.—The market remains quiet. Latest quotations are:—

New (this yr's) \$780 with all'ance of 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 cts.	
" (last yr's) \$780 " 3 to 4 "	
Old (2 1/2 yrs.) \$780 " 2 to 3 "	
Persian.—Prices for this drug have ruled steady. Closing quotations are for Oily \$490 to \$560 and for Paper-wrapped \$500 to \$555.	
To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna.....	310 chests.
Old Patna	1,520 "
New Benares	360 "
Old Benares	180 "
Malwa	260 "
Persian	520 "

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.						
Dec. 31	\$ 705	700	687 1/2	712 1/2	780	780
1897.						
Jan. 1	705	700	687 1/2	712 1/2	780	780
Jan. 2	700	692 1/2	675	710	780	780
Jan. 3	700	692 1/2	675	710	780	780
Jan. 4	690	685	667 1/2	710	780	780
Jan. 5	687 1/2	687 1/2	670	710	780	780

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—Some improvement in the market has to be reported and prices are advancing a little. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.40 to 2.42
" Round, good quality	2.57 to 2.60
" Long	2.75 to 2.78
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.51 to 2.53
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.80 to 2.82
" White	3.37 to 3.40
" Fine Cargo	3.62 to 3.64

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—795 bales No. 10 at \$76 to \$84, 365 bales No. 12 at \$81 to \$85, 25 bales No. 16 at \$84, 530 bales No. 20 at \$92 to \$103.50. *Grey Shirtings*.—420 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.32 1/2. *White Shirtings*.—250 pieces Red Swat at \$2.40. *T. Cloths*.—750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican 4 Stags at \$2.10, 500 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$2.60, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Seal at \$2.10. *Long Ells*.—125 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.60.

METAL:—*Iron*.—200 tons horse shoes, Ham, at \$2.32 1/2. *Yellow Metal*.—30 cases Square at \$82. Tin.—100 slabs Siam at \$32, 200 slabs Foongchai at \$32 to \$32.50.

Shanghai, 31st December.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—*Piece Goods*.—There is very little to report this week, as the interval has been in a great measure taken up with the holidays usual at this time of the year. Some business is reported to have been done among Chinese, but direct transactions with importers have been of the smallest, and even of these it is difficult to obtain any definite details. The few sales made public have evidently been made to supply immediate requirements, holders refusing to entertain the offers made for any quantity, while dealers are more prepared to await events than force business. What little news has been received from the North continues favourable and from the quantities of stocks held there the prospect of a good market when the season opens promises well. The River markets are also healthy and are taking fairly regular supplies, but there does not appear to have been much buying for future requirements in this direction lately.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Balford & Co.'s Report) 31st December.—Since the date of my last report the Christmas holidays have come and gone, but this has interfered but little with business.

ness, owing to the unprecedented dulness of the market. Several small sundry dealers have been forced to close their doors despite the easier tone of the money market, and it is much to be feared that more must do the same before the Chinese New Year holidays, when the consequent settlements are passed. The Chinese bank rate has been lowered, and there are a few indications of a better time in the near future. Tin-Plates have improved somewhat, and business has been done of about 3,000 cases at between Tls. 4 and Tls. 4.20 and there are still buyers at these figures. There is a better feeling in Bright Iron Wire, which has gone up at home, the dealers here showing signs of being willing to meet the advance. So that, while the depression through which the trade has been passing has not by any means been cleared, it is with pleasure we can hope our readers have had a Merry Christmas, and with confidence wish them a prosperous and successful New Year. There has been very little moving in Lead. Sales are of a retail character, and prices have not changed since our last report. Nailrod and Bar Iron are too high (at home) to allow any business being done here at present, the only transactions we heard of during the week are 100 tons Cart Tires at 91/6 and 30 cases Copper Sheathing at 260.5.0; c.i.f.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 5th January.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.67
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.72

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.16
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	51 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	53

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	164 1/2
Bank, on demand	165

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	164 1/2
Bank, on demand	165

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	1/2 pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	7% pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1/2 pm.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	9.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	48.60

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, January 5th.—The settlements on the 31st ult., having passed off very satisfactorily, with but few shares thrown on the market, rates immediately began to harden and in many cases, notably in Banks and Docks, showed a substantial rise. The anticipations of bargains to be picked up on settling day were doomed to disappointment, purchasers having made adequate arrangements to take up their stock and to meet all commitments during the early part of the week. The New Year holidays have interfered with business to some extent and beyond the before mentioned hardening of rates there is nothing of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week changed hands at 180 per cent. prem. and afterwards quickly rose to 182 1/2, with only a small sale at 182 reported. The market closes at 183 per cent. prem. with buyers. Nationals have changed hands in small lots at quotation. Bank of China continue neglected and unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found further small purchasers at \$220, but the demand at that rate cannot be fully met.

Cantons are on offer at \$177 1/2 ex. div. of \$5 paid on the 2nd instant. China Traders have been again in favour and a fair business has been put through at \$74 1/2, market closing steady. Forced sales of North Chinas have taken place in Shanghai at Tls. 190 and Yangtzes declined to \$140, at which rate, however, shares are now in request with no sellers under a substantial advance. Straits have been negotiated at \$25 1/2 and \$25 1/4, closing with buyers at \$25 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Beyond small sales of Hongkongs at \$365 and of Chinas at \$103 there is nothing to report, market for both stocks closing weakish.

SHIPPING.—Little business has been transacted under this heading and no movements of any importance have taken place. Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to rule remarkably steady and quiet with sales at \$32 1/2 and \$32 1/4 for cash, market closing steady at \$32 1/2. Indo-Chinas have found small buyers, chiefly for covering purposes, at \$40, and more could probably be placed at the rate. China Manilas have changed hands at \$68 and \$67, closing quiet. Douglases have ruled firm at \$57 with buyers and no sellers; at \$57 1/2, however, shares have changed hands and are still enquired for. China Mutuals are enquired for in a small way at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars were done as low as \$133 1/2 and \$134 over settlements, but the market immediately recovered to \$135, at which it closes steady. Luzons remain steady with small sales at \$46 and \$45, closing with buyers at the latter rate.

MINING.—The market has ruled exceptionally quiet and but few stocks have changed hands. Punjoms in the early part of the week were negotiated at \$12 1/2 and \$12, but dropped over settlements, with forced sales, to \$11 1/2 and later, on receipt of result of crushing, to \$10.75. The result of the December clean up, which came to hand yesterday, is a poor one. Owing to the stoppage of work caused by the recent floods the mill ran only 19 days, crushing 900 tons for a yield of 288 oz. of smelted gold, whilst the calcine process produced 35 oz. from 25 tons concentrates; total result 323 oz. There is as yet no news of the result of the cyanide working, but under the circumstances of the absence of the cyanider and the regrettable death of Mr. Quinn it is pretty sure to be much smaller than usual. Balmorals have improved to \$1.25 after a good many shares changing hands at \$1.15, \$1.20, and \$1.25, the market closing firm. Jelebus have ruled out of favour with shares offering at \$2.50 and finding no buyers. Raubs continue steady to strong with sales at \$9 and \$9.25. Olivers remain more or less neglected.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks changed hands over settlements at 213 and 214 per cent. prem. in fair lots, and immediately after jumped to 218, at which sales were reported. On time a few transactions at 226 and 230 for June were put through; market closes at 218. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet and more or less neglected, small sales only having taken place at \$59 and market closing quiet at that rate. Wanchais are still entirely out of the market. New Amoy Docks continue unchanged but firm at \$16; some extensive improvement in the way of increasing the size of the Dock are now in course of progress and promise to prove a great advantage to the Company when completed.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on the even tenor of their way with small sales at \$75 1/2 and more shares wanted at the rate. Hotels could be placed at \$31, but holders anticipating higher rates refuse to part. West Points continue with buyers at \$18 1/2 and sellers at \$19 without business. Humphreys Estates are enquired for at from \$9 to \$9.25, but very few shares seem to be available and the market closes firm.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue steady at \$18 1/2 with sales. Watsons have found buyers at \$12.25 and close steady. Electrics have been enquired for at \$6.50 without leading to business. Ropes have ruled rather quieter with sales at \$145 over settlements and close with buyers. Fenwicks have been in some

demand and have changed hands at \$29 1/2 and \$30, closing with a demand still unsatisfied. Tramways have ruled weak since the publication of the report and shares have been freely offered at \$93 ex. div. without finding buyers. Ball's Asbestos have been the medium of a fair business, chiefly with Singapore, at \$8 and \$7.50 for 17/6 paid up shares, market closing at \$7 1/2.

Closing quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		(\$53 1/2 buyers)
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	183 1/2, prem.
China & Japan, pref.	\$25	nominal
Do. ordinary	\$1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred	\$1	25, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$48	\$26
Founders Shares	\$1	\$100, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s	\$7 1/2, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	(in liquidation)
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, sales & sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	nominal
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$18 1/2, buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$110
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6 1/2, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$93, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$81, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$59, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145
H. & W. Dock	\$125	218 p. ct. prem.
Insurances—		(\$397.50, sales & s)
Canton	\$50	\$17 1/2, ex. div.
China Fire	\$20	\$103, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$74 1/2, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$365
North-China	\$25	Tls. 195
Straits	\$20	\$25 1/2, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$220, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$144, buyers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$75 1/2, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.25, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18 1/2, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$46, sales & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	60
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.50, sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.25, sales & buyers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. B.	\$2 1/2	\$2 1/2, sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$10.75, cum. div.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$3.90 cum. div.
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$9, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$67
China Mutual Ord.	\$5	\$2.5s.
Do. Preference	\$10	\$7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$57 1/2, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$32 1/2, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$40, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$45
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12.25, sales

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 31st December.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The Christmas holidays have interfered with business. With one or two exceptions, the settlements to-day have gone through successfully. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only transaction reported is a cash sale at 182 per cent. premium. The Hongkong quotation is steady at 181 per cent. premium. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N.—Shares changed hands, and are wanted at Tls. 28 1/2. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares were placed locally at \$39. Marine Insurance.—China Traders changed hands in Hongkong at \$74 1/2. North Chinas have again been sold at Tls. 190. Unions are offering at \$225, and Cantons at \$185 cum. the dividend of \$5 payable on the 2nd January. Yangtzes have been placed at \$14 1/2, and are weak at the close. Straits were placed to-day to Hongkong at \$25.50. Fire Insurance.—Both stocks are quiet, but steady, at former prices. Wharves.—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares are offering in Hongkong at \$59. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were sold at Tls. 210, and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 207 1/2. Sugars.—Perak Sugars Cultivation shares have been placed at Tls. 28 for delivery on the 31st March. China Sugar shares changed hands at \$18 1/2 and \$18, and were placed to Hongkong at

\$13. Land.—Kowloon Land and Building shares were sold to Hongkong at \$13. Industrial.—Business has been confined to Ewo, Cotton S. & W. shares at Tls. 80. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares have been placed at Tls. 100, and Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 280. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment 6 per cent Debentures of 1890 were sold at Tls. 106 plus the accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 31st December (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co's report).—Owing to the holidays business has ruled very quiet during the past fortnight. Cargo for London has not been plentiful, and the tonnage provided has been quite sufficient for the wants of shippers. Rumours of the "outsider" for New York are well founded, and we understand that the steamer *Morven* will come in here about the end of next week; we cannot say at present what support she is likely to get. Coasting.—Has not improved, and several of our local liners are taking advantage of the dullness to effect their annual overhaul. Rates from Nagasaki to this have suffered a further decline, and we believe that as low as fifty-five cents has been accepted. For New York *via* Cape.—Cargo is coming forward very slowly and in small parcels, and the *Benjamin Sewall*, although being the only sailer, is experiencing a little difficulty in obtaining positive engagements; we doubt, therefore, if another vessel is taken up. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 35s.; tea 30s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 42s. 6d.; Boston *via* New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 52s. 6d.; tea 47s. 6d.; Philadelphia, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 52s. 6d.; tea 47s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 34s. 6d. net; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports by all lines. New York, by sail, 19s.; New York by Pacific Lines, 1½ gold cents. per lb. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai, 90 cents nominal per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai, 85 cents nominal per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Pyrrhus* (str.), *Peking* (str.), *Sunda* (str.), *Borneo* (str.), *Ganges* (s.r.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Matternorn* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.), *Sumbawa*, *Doric* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Mount Lebanon* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Port Adelaide* (str.), *Polyphmus* (str.), *Penobscot*.
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).
Sackem, *Cassius* (str.), *Benjamin Sewall*, *Port Adelaide*, *Polyphmus* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Yamashiro Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December—
31, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Moji.
31, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
31, Changsha, British str., from Australia.
31, Desima, German str., from Saigon.
31, Fausang, British str., from Java.
31, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
31, Letimbro, Austrian str., from Trieste.
31, Arcona, German corvette, from Manila.
31, Benlawers, British str., from K'chinotzu.
31, Else, German str., from Moji.
31, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
31, Holstein, German str., from Fanrang Bay.
31, Clara, German str., from Hoihow.
January—
1, Tulenkun, Amr. sch., from Ngatik (Caroline Island).
1, Tsinan, British str., from Yokohama.
1, Strathay, British str., from Mororan.
1, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
1, Tientsin, British str., from Chinkiang.
1, City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F. Oisoo.
1, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
2, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
2, Hupeh, British str., from Java.
3, Glengarry, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.

3, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
3, Mount Lebanon, Brit. str., from Portland.
3, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
3, Santa Cruz, Amr. sch., from Yap.
3, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
3, Amoy, German str., from Amoy.
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Bayern, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Chusan, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Federation, British str., from Java.
4, Rio, German str., from Java.
4, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Kalgan, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
4, Michael Jepsen, German str., from Moji.
4, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Nord, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
4, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
5, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
5, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
5, Yarra, French str., from Yokohama.
5, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
5, Deuterios, German str., from Saigon.
5, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
5, Irene, German cruiser, from Manila.
5, Holstein, German str., from Macao.
5, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Canton.

DEPARTURES.

31, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
31, Oceana, German str., for Singapore.
31, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
31, Martha, German str., for Saigon.
31, Achilles, British str., for London.
31, Cassius, German str., for New York.
31, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Chunsang, British str., for Kobe.
31, Congo, Spanish sch., for Manila.
31, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Europe.
31, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
31, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Quarta, German str., for Hongay.
31, Esang, British str., for Canton.
31, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
31, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Canton.

January—

1, Germania, German str., for Singapore.
1, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Holstein, German str., for Macao.
1, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
1, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
1, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
2, Hoihow, British str., for Swatow.
2, Mazagon, British str., for Kobe.
2, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
2, Santa, German str., for Yokohama.
2, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
2, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
2, Belle of Bath, Amr. ship, for New York.
2, Ladakh, British ship, for Iloilo.
3, Freiburg, Amr. ship, for New York.
3, Sachem, Amr. ship, for New York.
3, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
3, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
3, Swatow, German steamer, for Iloilo.
4, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for K'notzu.
4, Hinsang, British str., for Singapore.
4, Kweilin, British str., for Swatow.
4, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
4, Paoting, British str., for Saigon.
4, Wm. H. Smith, Amr. sh., for N. York.
5, Australian, British str., for Kobe.
5, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
5, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
5, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
5, Loyal, Dutch str., for Bangkok.
5, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Amoy.
5, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
5, Cromarty, British str., for Newcastle.
5, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
5, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
5, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
5, J. Diedericksen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
5, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
5, Memnon, British str., for Singapore.
5, Pelican, British str., for Kobe.
5, Rio, German str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Lightning*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Major Renney, Lieut. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and Mr. Raymond.

Per *Memnon*, str., from Sandakan—Capt. McArthur and Mr. Foster.

Per *Empress of China*, str., from Vancouver—Mrs. H. Webster, Mrs. A. Wilkes, Messrs. A. Ross Owen, W. Leigh, and Chan Long, Mr. and Mrs. Yee Tai and 2 children. From Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. H. Payne Whitney, Mr. W. S. Curtis, Miss Lucy Curtis, Messrs. A. W. H. Whitnall, Robt. Chapman, Leonard Black, H. B. Darnell, and H. W. Arthur, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Oveyin. From Kobe—Mr. V. Chirol, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Griffin. From Shanghai—Dr. and Mrs. Charles, Messrs. N. Balbas, E. C. Welsh, W. A. Main, and J. J. Bell-Irving.

Per *Prometheus*, str., from Singapore—Mr. Mussen and 298 Chinese.

Per *Letimbro*, str., from Trieste, &c.—Messrs. F. Crocco and G. Cilento.

Per *Haimun*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. Hughes.

Per *Changsha*, str., from Australia—Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin, Miss Gray, Messrs. Spencer, Sinclair, and Schultz, Mrs. Dawson and child, Mrs. Merol.

Per *City of Peking*, str., from San Francisco—Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Curtos, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Casanova, Messrs. Eric Gumprecht, F. Rieber and 335 Chinese.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—General N. Krodekoff, Messrs. K. Yaouhara, K. Faruta, J. B. Poisson and Joseph Le Dante.

Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports—Messrs. C. H. Best, B. S. Mehta, Ho Tai Tin, Tsing Poo, and Sek Qua.

Per *Natal*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles—Mr. W. Purcell, Mr. and Mrs. Menant, Rev. and Mrs. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, and infant. From Bombay—Messrs. Sonada, Omishi, Yamamoto, and Yanagiya. From Colombo—Frères Gabriel and Stephen. From Singapore—Messrs. E. Osborn, Emaio, Kobayan, and Sheikh Mohamed. From Saigon—Messrs. Planté, David, and Marquez. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mrs. Simonet. For Kobe from Marseilles—Messrs. Inabata, Kengoro Goh, and Geiel. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Count Yamadu, Messrs. Murano and Ogawa, Rev. Dons Gérard, Messrs. Honda, de Montgmont, Kamuya, and Parpé. From Colombo—Mr. Gerbert. From Singapore—Mr. Kasah. From Saigon—Mr. Akera Laito.

Per *Loongmoon*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. L. Frankenthal, Capt. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt and son.

Per *Bayern*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Brennan Atkinson and child, Messrs. A. B. Ross, H. Kean, J. von Schoeler, J. Ehlers, A. C. Heckmann, J. A. Norcross, and G. Diessel, Mrs. Skordal and children, Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Mr. and Mrs. Jaure and child, and Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Killie.

Per *Taisang*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Capt. Sellar.

DEPARTED.

Per *Gaelic*, str., for Chicago—Mr. J. W. Hildersheim. For London—Mr. C. Clift.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. D. Haskell, Messrs. A. V. Lafone, E. A. Leggatt, H. W. Mortimore, Haskell, Jr., and W. E. Smith. For Brindisi—Mr. L. H. Rogers, Jr., Mrs. J. A. Farnam, Mrs. De Witt C. Hay, Mr. A. B. Falkenburg, Mrs. L. F. Watson, and Miss H. Truss. For London—Miss Mead, Comdr. W. F. Tunnard, R.N., Midshipmen B. M. Taylor, R.N., J. A. Slee, R.N., E. A. E. Nixon, R.N., G. R. B. Blount, R.N., C. A. Fremantle, R.N., W. G. Rigg, R.N., G. P. Bamber, R.N., C. M. Dammers, R.N., H. B. Cox, R.N., J. R. Corner, R.N., F. O. Dew, R.N., J. C. H. Williams, R.N., Messrs. E. Kunhardt, Frugier, Leigh, Whitnall, and Ch. Huggins. From Shanghai for Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Marshall. For London—Miss Goodwin. From Yokohama for Bombay—Rev. and Mrs. N. Rockey and 6 children. For Marseilles—Mr. Tan Tajuna. For London—Messrs. C. H. Allen and Jas. Leys. From Kobe for Brindisi—Messrs. H. Marcus and J. Tschetinian.

Per *Natal*, str., for Shanghai—Rev. A. Roliz, Messrs. G. Duyster, Ed. Pereira, and L. Viotal. For Kobe—Messrs. R. Yasuhara, K. Faruta, and Kobayashi.

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